

HOME NEWS

Stechford's National Front vote was protest

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Mr Andrew Brous, aged 29, the National Front candidate who beat the Liberals into fourth place in the Birmingham, Stechford, by-election is, so to say, a second generation representative of his still young party.

As a lecturer in politics at Harrogate Mr Brous epitomizes the new and articulate man who will be seen much more in future under the Union Jack. It is true that muscular, wary aides in leather jackets still have subsidiary roles as they did at Stechford, with banners, less responses to questions, but the seedy air of confrontation of recent years has gone. The aura of the magistrates' court and ancient Acts has receded, although the judiciary never seem far from mind.

In the dispirited air of politics that was typical of Stechford, particularly after a leaden Budget for many Labour voters, Mr Brous seemed sure to prosper. He did so in sufficient strength to disturb Mr Mackay, the Conservative winner, and Mr Goppsill, the Liberal. Characteristically, Mr Davis, the Labour candidate, declined to discuss his opponents.

Mr Brous maintained that his vote made the National Front Britain's third party. But yesterday the rain-swept streets, with posters already tattered and party offices in the hands of cleaning women, it did not look quite so certain.

Two middle-aged woman shoppers who declined to give their names were born into it and Roy Jenkins, although he did not have much to do with Stechford as he became a big name, suited us.

"But the last few years it has gone funny. The prices are a nightmare and with all the will in the world nothing seems to be done about it. It is the same with the coloureds. Sometimes



Mr Andrew MacKay, the Conservative victor, celebrating with his wife, Diana.

being working-class, I feel ashamed, but I cannot take to them, and I am not alone.

"I never really liked Mr Jenkins's attitude to them, because it did not add up to what people around here were saying. This time I felt the National Front seemed to say what I thought. I do not hate the coloureds, but it seemed a good chance to show what I felt. Honestly, I am not sure today whether I did the right thing or not. I hope you know what I mean, it was a protest. There is no other way, is there?"

Her views seemed to be those of several others, although two women and one man in the same area said with some force:

"It's the blacks, isn't it? You've got to do something."

Mr Mackay, glowing from his victory and ready to report at Westminster on Monday, said he would continue to take what he called a realistic, sensible and moderate line on immigration, and would speak on it.

There seemed little doubt that his earlier hard line had led to a disaster rap on the knuckles from the Tory leadership. He dismissed a suggestion by Mr Brous that he should intro-

duce a private Bill on immigration.

Mr Goppsill said that Mr Mackay's 30,000 leaflets calling for an end to immigration would hang round his neck for the rest of his political life. "I think Stechford has lost a very good man and replaced him by a very mediocre one."

Mr Albert Mollaber, a middle-aged Post Office worker and Labour voter, seemed to encapsulate many of Stechford's views. He said of those who defected, "They ought to be damned well ashamed of themselves, particularly those who 'voted' with pint pots in their hands in the pub rather than the poll, and there were a lot of them."

"This is a working-class seat and Labour has been good to most of them, if only they thought about it. The car workers here have always set the pace in wages and material things and have had a good life. How quickly they forget when their cigarettes go up and their family car is threatened, even though it is crippling already."

"The National Front did well because you cannot deny that working people see immigrants come here penniless and in no

time some are buying up shops with plenty of money. It causes resentment. The Asians do not want to mix and I know several Labour people who have gone over because of it all. But Labour is as will be again, a Labour seat despite Thursday."

A. MacKay (C) 15,731
T. Davis (Lab) 13,782
A. Brous (NF) 2,955
G. Goppsill (L) 2,901
B. Heron (Int Marxist) 494
P. Foot (Soc Workers) 277
C. majority 1,949

General election: R. H. Jenkins (Lab) 23,075; D. J. Wedgwood (C) 11,152; G. A. Goppsill (L) 5,880; Lab majority, 11,923.

1977 1974 Change
Lab 36.0% 57.8% -21.8%
C 43.4% 27.8% +15.6%
NF 8.2% 14.6% -6.4%
L 8.2% 1.0% +7.2%
M 3.8% 1.4% +2.4%
F 1.4% 0.4% +1.0%
Electorate 61,531 62,618 -1,087
All candidates except C and Lab lost their deposits.

George Hutchinson, page 14

Leading article, page 15

Price rises threaten new pact on wages

By Tim Jones

Increases in the price of gas and electricity which came into force yesterday lessened the Government's chances of keeping the crucial support of the Transport and General Workers' Union in its efforts to obtain another year of voluntary pay restraint from the unions.

The 10 per cent increase on gas and 2 per cent on electricity contrasted sharply with the call made yesterday by Sir James Jones, general secretary of the transport union, for the nation to be given a "real breather" by an immediate freeze on prices.

Mr Jones has stated that his union will be sending an "extremely critical" report on some aspects of the Budget to the TUC's economic committee. His union's disillusionment over the Budget, together with yesterday's price increases and the prospect of an increase in the price of other commodities, such as bread, will make it difficult for Mr Jones to begin discussing price rises unless there are improvements in the terms that the Chancellor is offering.

Mr Healey knows that, because of the size of its block vote at the TUC congress, decisions taken on pay at the transport union will be crucial to the future of the special relationship between the Government and the TUC.

Mr Jones says in his union journal that the Government's policy of increasing food and services and on nationalised industry prices and fares would help to restore confidence in Britain's chances of economic recovery.

He wants the price code to be the toughest since the cost rises are not passed on down the line. "The price gallop is starting again, and industry has the nerve, with its Tory and press supporters, to want less price control when its profits are already well on the way."

"Price rises don't make sense, whichever way we look at them."

"A price freeze, and a new price code with powers to tell firms with big profits actually to reduce prices, especially when the cost of production is falling because of the stronger pound sterling, would help sales recover, create jobs and get the wheels of industry turning again for the whole nation."

Further opposition to a new voluntary agreement on pay will come in Birmingham tomorrow when more than 1,000 elected delegates to the Leyland Cars shop stewards committee meet to discuss the restoration of free collective bargaining.

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Belfast shuttle aircraft will stay overnight

From Christopher Walker Belfast

For the first time in more than four years British Airways will park an aircraft overnight at Belfast's Aldergrove airport on a regular basis.

That change in security policy is understood to have been made after prolonged consultation with the Ministry of Defence. It has been introduced to ease the running of the airline's new shuttle service between Belfast and London, which started yesterday.

Aldergrove is regarded by the security forces as one of the main "prestige" targets for the Provisional IRA and it has been attacked several times. The whole of Northern Ireland has been blacklisted by British Airways since 1972 because of its fear of assassination by the IRA. The airline refused to stay overnight in the province.

The aircraft was to remain for the present although the airline is hoping that it may be lifted soon. "We were almost at the point of persuading the crews to change their minds

when the mortars exploded at Aldergrove early last year," an official said yesterday.

Elaborate plans have been made by the Army and the RAF to guard the shuttle jet, a Trident valued at more than £1m. It will be towed across the tarmac every night after serving in an RAF hangar a quarter of a mile from the main airport building.

Crews will continue to be flown out to sleep in Glasgow and will be brought back each morning. Last year the extra service flights cost British Airways about £500,000, nearly half the airline's estimated loss on the Belfast route.

British Airways acknowledges that the rigorous security precautions at Aldergrove and Heathrow clash seriously with their attempts to provide a rapid walk-on, walk-off service to attract extra traffic.

Because of these difficulties the Belfast shuttle did not run smoothly on its inaugural day. Flights to and from Belfast yesterday were delayed by more than 30 minutes and at Heathrow passengers were angry.

Family held while bomb was delivered

From Our Correspondent

An Ulster family was held hostage yesterday to force the father to drive a bomb to a Belfast barracks. The resulting explosion caused no casualties and little damage.

According to the army, the man was forced to drive to the main gates of the Prince of Wales, on the Holywood Road, Belfast, leaving his family at their home in the Twinbrook area.

He shouted to the barracks guard that there was a bomb in the car and was ordered to drive across the road away from the gates. The device exploded a few minutes later.

The army said later that the bomb contained up to 50lb of explosives. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Provisional IRA.

In Londonderry bomb disposal experts defused two cassette incendiary devices found in a shopping bag dropped in Crossmore Gardens by a man being chased by security forces. The man escaped.

Irish fishing zone defined unilaterally

From Our Correspondent

The Irish Government is taking unilateral action to establish an exclusive 50 to 100-mile fishing zone. After a Cabinet meeting yesterday it decided to introduce an Order, excluding from Irish waters boats longer than 110ft with engines of more than 110hp. The Order becomes effective from midnight, Easter Day.

Action has been postponed twice to enable EEC negotiations to proceed, but Community's suggestion proved unacceptable to Dublin. Mr Donegan, Minister of Fisheries, said yesterday the new regulations covered "the Irish box".

It would extend 50 miles from the coast and in some cases 100 miles beyond. Mr Donegan said other members of the Community would be invited to submit fishing plans for approval, with a view to the introduction of a scheme on the lines proposed by the EEC.

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Liberals in talks about vital vote

Continued from page 1

Mr Steel said Mr Pardoos was consulting with other Liberal MPs over the weekend, and he himself would explain the Liberal position in Monday's Budget debate.

Mr Steel said the party was considering the best way to oppose the petrol tax increase, adding: "Clearly, to know a large hole in the Budget on Monday would be a serious matter."

"But we can in no way go back on our commitment to oppose the increase in petrol prices, which is particularly hard on those who require a car as a necessity, not a luxury in areas where there is little or no public transport."

"We also recognize that under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, used by both Conservative and Labour governments, the increase has already been levied since Budget day, and there could be administrative chaos in Parliament that voted against its collection. The situation is further complicated by the inclusion of the petrol increase in one Budget resolution among all other oil tax increases."

But he said the Budget was fought before the Liberal-Labour pact came into force and was "no part of our agreement."

After the meeting in Nelson Mr Steel said: "We are looking for a compromise with the Government to have the total amount of money in the Budget can be raised without the extra tax on petrol. My own view is that people would rather have the personal option of more on such things as beer than be faced by a compulsory rise in petrol."

Although he Liberals did not want to "block a great hole in the Budget" they wanted to find an alternative to dearest petrol. "We must find a compromise between damaging the Budget and having such a basic rise in the cost of living as the petrol increase."

Rees the Home Secretary, said last night: "The Government now needs time, so that our announced industrial policies can be achieved before the Budget is passed."

The Government must do this in a way that could not be used to attack the Labour Government. "Above all, the Government must not recover the painful process of the Budget before only to be replaced by the Tories in 1970."

SEE THE OMAN BATHS BATH

Unique in Britain - built in 1890. Hot Springs 200 years ago. Assembly Rooms, Magnificent, 18th Cent. Pump Room, Bath.

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Mrs Thatcher cancels engagements in autumn in readiness for election

A general election in the autumn was predicted yesterday by Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition, after her party's victory in the by-election at Birmingham, Stechford.

Mr Callaghan reacted to the result. He spent yesterday morning visiting Telford new town and the West Midlands and ignored reporters' questions.

One of his visits was to a BSR electronics plant near Dudley, West Midlands, where 400 women workers, on a go-slow because of an overtime dispute, agreed to return to normal working on Thursday.

In the afternoon Mr Callaghan flew to Oslo from Birmingham.

She said the Stechford result had extended the whole meaning of marginal constituencies. "No one would have described Stechford as marginal."

She emphasized the effort the Government had put into the by-election, and said people had been confused by the Labour-Liberal pact. "They expect politicians to make up their minds on matters and issues and not be open to wheeling and dealing. They have turned politics into a bear garden."

"What is needed in Britain is a government with clear authority to govern for the next four or five years so that we can have a continuous programme."

It was important, she said, to achieve a smooth transition between Phase Two of the pay policy and full free collective bargaining. Differentials and productivity deals were difficulties.

Mrs Thatcher was given a standing ovation by 350 party workers in Hemel Hempstead. She told them the Government was clinging to office and its morale was crumbling.

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, denied that his party's poor showing in the by-election had anything to do with the Liberal-Labour pact. The result did not surprise him.

He did not believe a general election would take place in the immediate future.

Speaking about the National Front's showing at Stechford, Mr Steel said he believed a programme of education was needed to remind the younger generation of where such policies might lead. "It is the kind of politics we do not want to see grow in this country."

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Protest votes helped the Tories, opinion poll says

A protest vote against the Government and disillusionment with the Liberal Party were the main factors in the Conservative victory in the by-election at Birmingham, Stechford, by-election, according to an opinion poll conducted for the Independent Television News by the Opinion Research Centre.

The poll, among 571 voters at four voting stations, showed that the Conservatives gained 14 per cent of votes cast for Labour at the last general election, and 27 per cent of the Liberal vote in addition to 45 per cent of those voters who did not vote in 1974.

A third of voters said they had changed their party allegiance since 1974, and most who changed from Labour did so as a protest vote. The Labour defectors, the poll indicated, were mainly skilled workers. More than half said the Government's alliance with the Liberals had made them less inclined to vote Labour.

It also took a toll on the Liberal vote.

The poll attributed 55 per cent of the strong National Front showing to former Labour voters, and indicated that more than half of National Front voters were trade union members.

Questions about the relevant virtues of the party leaders drew the response that Mr Callaghan was considered more adept at dealing with unions and crises than Mrs Thatcher.

Two South American women, Clara Lopes and Gladys Heawood, both aged 28, were sentenced at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday to four years' imprisonment for their part in smuggling 2,646 grams of cocaine into Heathrow airport, London, on August 14 last.

Judge Solomon said: "To traffic in cocaine is to deal with living death."

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Peace formula agreed in hospitals dispute

A peace formula was agreed last night in the dispute at the National Union of Public Employees and the management of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney.

Earlier yesterday five operations at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were cancelled because of the dispute.

The trouble started at Great Ormond Street when three porters refused to remove medical files from a basement, said to be several inches deep in water in places, and claimed an overtime payment for extra duty. They were suspended on full pay. Other porters at Great Ormond Street and colleagues at Queen Elizabeth Hospital stopped work in sympathy.

As a result of the union agreed to recommend a return to work at the earliest opportunity and the hospital management agreed to reinstate the suspended employees when that took place. The joint secretaries of the Ancillary Staffs' Whitley Council are to be asked to decide whether conditions in the basement store are normal working conditions, or what the payment should be for clearing the files there.

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Rape victim refuses to give in to fear

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, April 1

Signorina Claudia Caputi, who was attacked by youths with razors on Wednesday in an attempt to frighten her into silence, said today that she would continue to give evidence against a gang accused of raping her last August.

From her hospital bed, she asked that the trial of seven of the men charged with rape should be postponed so that she could give evidence against them in person.

Some 15,000 women took part in a march last night to express solidarity with her.

Signorina Caputi, aged 18, stated that since she decided to face her attackers in court she had received many threats, including threats of death.

The men who had attacked her two days ago, she said, had warned her that she did not desire, she would be shot. She claimed that she recognized her attackers as part of the group which raped her last August.

The case is being understood in its full seriousness by public opinion. The Italian public is more at home with crimes which can promptly be given a political label.

The case of Signorina Caputi, however, has shined a new light on the problem of rape. Her attackers on both occasions were youths who are the product of the semi-slums and suburbs of Rome which have grown up as a result of the shift from the countryside to the cities in the postwar period. They belong to the first generation to be brought up in these surroundings.

These young people are blamed for the part of the huge increase in violent crime in the city. Political violence has some recognizable motives, however warped. Mindless violence is quite different.

Political violence was planned for the death last night of a taxi driver who went to rescue his not under attack by youths said to be of the extreme left.

The young man, Enzo Giudici, belongs to the local section of the right-wing Italian Social Movement.

British airliner in near miss with US fighter

Frankfurt, April 1—A British airliner in bad weather yesterday narrowly avoided a collision with a US fighter jet.

The Federal Air Safety Board reported.

A spokesman said the incident happened about 25 miles west of Frankfurt as a Boeing 747 of the British Airways flew from London to New York.

It was the latest in a series of near misses between military and civil aircraft reported by West Germany.

The spokesman said flight instructors at Karlsruhe monitored the near miss between the airliner and a US fighter jet.

The pilot of the British airliner had not reported a near miss, the spokesman said, and an official US military spokesman said no report had been received there either.

AP.

EEC Commission tightens rules on butter subsidy

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, April 1

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the European Commissioner for agriculture, announced measures today to plug a loophole in the Commission's control over export subsidies of surplus butter.

After the controversial sale of 36,000 tonnes of butter to the Soviet Union last month, the Commission introduced a monitoring system whereby applications for "pre-fixed" export subsidies were made subject to prior approval.

A pre-fixed subsidy is granted to a trader to cover a future deal up to a certain amount. This gives him a guarantee that the level of the subsidy will not be changed before the conclusion of the sale contract and delivery.

Hitherto no prior approval was required for subsidies granted on a spot basis. Now,



President Sadat and Herr Schmidt, the West German leader, in Bonn yesterday.

Mr Sadat wins aid from Bonn

From Gertel Spitzer
Bonn, April 1

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has accepted an invitation to visit President Sadat after discussions this morning. He hoped the visit would take place in December.

Talking to the press after the talks, Herr Schmidt and President Sadat agreed that

1977 offered good chances for bringing about a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Resumption of the Geneva conference this year would offer an opportunity for the possibility to become reality, Herr Schmidt said.

He was careful not to commit himself on the role of the Palestinians at the conference, however. He believed that the Palestinians had to take part in the conference in one way or another.

President Sadat announced further German aid to Egypt. He did not disclose the sum, which is still subject to approval by the Bundestag, but it is an open secret that it amounts to DM250m (£62.5m), DM200m in cash and DM50m in goods. Some technical aid will also be added.

Referring to peace prospects, President Sadat said the lack of success of the visit to Moscow by Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, could delay the solution of other problems such as the Middle East issue. He was rather concerned about developments in the Mediterranean and Africa.

There were Mediterranean states such as Libya that made it easier for the Soviet Union to do what it wanted. In Egypt's opinion, the Mediterranean should be a sea of peace and Africa should be left in peace so that its people could determine developments at their own discretion.

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There were Mediterranean states such as Libya that made it easier for the Soviet Union to do what it wanted. In Egypt's opinion, the Mediterranean should be a sea of peace and Africa should be left in peace so that its people could determine developments at their own discretion.

M Barre to stick to his economic policy

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 1

Mr Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, in a television broadcast tonight that was expected to set the course of his new Government, stated categorically that his economic policy would remain unchanged.

"It would not be intellectually honest or worthy of a government, to open the sluices, to try to win votes by making the economy run considerably by denegating that the problem of the economy could be the new Government's first objective was to pursue economic recovery. A special effort would, however, be made to deal with unemployment.

Replying to criticism that his new team was more serious than the original, M. Barre said that the Government's first objective was to pursue economic recovery. A special effort would, however, be made to deal with unemployment.

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Italian party line on Nato in doubt

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The achievement of socialist countries had "matured the consciousness of the right to give individual freedom. The Italian party believes that this must be the next phase of historical development.

"We are against all restrictions on freedom of travel, freedom of discussion, freedom of assembly," he said. He did not think social democracy would have the slightest chance of success in Russia or East Europe. "It has been overtaken by history," he said.

Asked whether the Italian Communist Party would resign peacefully if it failed in an election, he replied: "I think we would if we lost the support of the people." He seemed to find this difficult to imagine, however.

Once the working class has acquired hegemony and led Italy out of its present permanent crisis, it would be difficult to envisage anyone wanting regression from a better state of society to a worse state," he said.

If such an unreasonable view were to prevail, however, would be how to it? "It is the logic of our policy that we would," he said.

Spokesmen for the publishers have replied that the strike action involving the country's newspapers was poorly timed. The walk-out came last night as the newspapers were going to press. Almost simultaneously there was an announcement that contact had been made between the Danish council of trade unions and the confederation of employers to discuss ways of ending the Berlingske conflict.

The strikers are also intending to add pressure to the claims of Denmark's graphic unions in collective bargaining. Negotiations for a new two-year contract have reached deadlock and the unions claim that some employers' organizations have totally ignored their requests and views and that, under the leadership of the Berlingske group, they have launched a total war on the printing unions.

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OVERSEAS

Washington says Mr Gromyko was 'inaccurate' in his denunciation of US proposals

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, April 1

The American Government has decided to return it for ratification after the breakdown of strategic arms limitation negotiations in Moscow.

Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, said this morning that Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had made inaccurate charges against the United States yesterday and insisted that the American proposals were reasonable and equitable.

President Carter said the details of what Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, proposed in Moscow. Mr Brzezinski said that the proposals would have capped the arms race, that Mr Gromyko had used "strong, inaccurate language" in denouncing them, and that the United States would not abandon its allies in Europe nor its policies on human rights in the Soviet Union.

Mr Brzezinski said the American side had not expected that the Russians would accept the proposals. They went much further than Vladivostok and "unlike previous proposals, really reduce weaponry on both sides".

It will take some time for the Soviet leaders to appreciate the mutual advantages of this proposal," he said.

In spite of their brave words, the American leaders know that they are facing a foreign affairs crisis. The President mounted a large-scale verbal attack on the Soviet Union for its violations of human rights and then revealed publicly the outlines of the radical disarmament proposals he intended to submit.

The Russians called, essentially, for the Russians to give up all their best weapons in exchange for an American promise not to develop new weapons which would be better than the Russian ones, but which are not yet ready for use.

The Russians have turned him down and have raised the question of American short-range missiles in Europe and their naval bases in Scotland and Spain.

Our Moscow Correspondent writes: The failure of Mr Vance's Moscow mission came as no surprise to American diplomats here. They had advised Mr Vance from the outset that his proposals on strategic arms limitation would be unacceptable.

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Our Moscow Correspondent writes: The failure of Mr Vance's Moscow mission

OVERSEAS

Cyprus talks reach deadlock on first day

Vienna, April 1.—New negotiations on Cyprus reached a deadlock on the first day after Greek and Turkish Cypriot delegates tabled widely divergent proposals for a return to joint government to end 13 years of constitutional tension. The Greek Cypriots rejected a Turkish plan tabled today for a loose federation. The Turks described Greek proposals made yesterday for two separate administrative regions as untenable. Dr. Waldheim said tonight that "a real exchange of views on territorial aspects had taken place. There are still great differences. This was to be expected. It is important that they are talking."

Conference sources said there were no serious hopes of a breakthrough at the talks in Vienna, but negotiations were expected to continue in Nicosia early in May. Reuters. Our Nicosia Correspondent writes: Mr. Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, angrily described the Greek Cypriot proposals as "unrealistic and illogical". He described a map, submitted by the Greek Cypriots, said to allot about 20 per cent of the island to the Turkish Cypriots in a bi-zonal federation, as a provocation.

Denktas has indicated that the Turks, about 18 per cent of the population, would settle for 32 per cent of the island.

Official Greek-Cypriot sources said Turkish proposals were unacceptable because they were tantamount to requiring bilateral agreement between separate states rather than a federal constitution.

Brazil Congress dismissed after Bill is lost

Rio de Janeiro, April 1.—President Ernesto Geisel of Brazil today closed down Congress indefinitely in what observers regarded as the most serious political crisis in the country for almost 10 years. The decision was announced after a meeting of the National Security Council, called to adopt restrictive political measures after the Opposition had rejected a judicial reform Bill. The Bill, which was a constitutional amendment, had required a two-thirds congressional majority, will be enacted by presidential decree.

President Geisel is also expected to introduce several other measures, including a direct increase of direct elections for governors next year in federal possible opposition.

Mr Dolanc looking for closer ties with Labour Party

One man in Belgrade who does not believe he is the Tito heir

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, April 1

Mr Stane Dolanc, the 51-year-old secretary of the executive bureau of the presidium of the Yugoslav League of Communists, who arrived in Britain on Sunday as guest of the Labour Party, is hoping to establish a closer relationship between the two parties.

He said ties between the League of Communists and the Labour Party lapsed after the first Yugoslavia visit in the 1950s and were not revived until the visit to Yugoslavia last year by Mr. Ron Hayward, general secretary of the British party.

Mr Dolanc is one of those exceptional Communist politicians who talk frankly and plainly, perhaps the only one in Yugoslavia apart from President Tito. He was relatively unknown outside his native Slovenia until he was promoted more than five years ago to the post of secretary of the executive bureau and given the task of purging the party of liberals.

While Mr Dolanc has made a name for himself in this job, he insisted in an interview with the "Times" that he is not President Tito's designated heir. He regards such speculation as "non-sensical" and is irritated by what he regards as a complete misunderstanding of Yugoslavia's political system. "Yugoslavia is not a monarchy in need of an heir," he said.

However, in Mr Dolanc, President Tito has found a strong and gifted executive who has made a personal



Mr Stane Dolanc... gifted.

imprint on the political scene and is clearly the man to be reckoned with.

People who know him say that he is a gifted negotiator and a skilful tactician. He loves basketball and says he used to be a player himself at a time when it was necessary to be nearly seven feet tall. He listens to Karel and Bach while working. He spent 17 years in the Army, which

he left with the rank of colonel and a law degree.

Since then he has studied in Paris, Rome, Moscow and Uppsala, Sweden.

His time in the Army was spent mostly on political as distinct from military work and observers say this has won him the support of the military, which may turn the balance in his favour in any future leadership battle. Again Mr Dolanc spurned such suggestions.

He said Yugoslavia would shortly announce an amnesty for prisoners but he refused to say how many would be freed.

On human rights, Mr Dolanc said recently that in Yugoslavia people were too harshly accused of being hostile and treated as enemies if they held a critical view of the Government. But this, he said today, did not mean people were being imprisoned for expressing political views.

Yugoslavia, he said, has done more than many other countries in furthering human rights, although he agreed there was never enough freedom.

He pointed to the fact that last year 17 million Yugoslav prisoners were freed by Yugoslavia. He said this showed that the country was an open one with an open society.

When he assumed office more than five years ago, Mr Dolanc was seen as a firm disciplinarian but he has proved the contrary and represents that group of society, predominant in Yugoslavia now, which favours moderate policies.

PARLIAMENT, April 1, 1977

Government conscious of concern over passage of EEC legislation

House of Commons

Mr John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth, Lab.), calling attention to the need to review the European Communities Act, 1972, said that the Act could be repealed and amended. The idea that Britain had passed one of her sovereignty, for ever, was not true.

He moved: That this House call upon the Government to institute a review of the operation of the European Communities Act, 1972, and to report to the House on the results of that review.

He said that while the Act was on the statute book Parliament's role in processing EEC legislation was not clear. The Act purported to yield up for ever Britain's sovereignty in certain matters. There were certain Acts which could not be repealed, but this Act could be. The Act of 1976 had a special provision which allowed it to be repealed at any time.

The day would come (he said) when the activities of a Minister would be said to be illegal by Community law and I hope the Minister, if it is not an overstatement to say so, will tell them to stuff it.

The day would come when the High Court itself would have to decide whether the Ministers were acting within the limits of the European Communities Act.

Mr Frederick Silvester (Manchester, West, Con.) said that there was no way in which a Community set up under a treaty in which the Government had agreed to be bound by what was in the minds of people in 1957. The historical moment of the treaty was not the treaty that people wanted it to be.

Mr Graham Page, for the Opposition (Crosby, C.), said they were in favour of a review of the Act. He said that the Government was not going to be bound by what was in the minds of people in 1957. The historical moment of the treaty was not the treaty that people wanted it to be.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Bayswater, Lab.) said legislation in a parliamentary democracy must be enacted by the elected representatives of those to whom the legislation will be applied and against whom it was to be enforced.

It should be debated, amended and approved in a way that would allow full public discussion. Both in draft and final form the legislation should be in precise and full language available to everybody who wished to study it.

All these principles of legislation had been observed in this country.

EEC legislation was enacted either by the Council of Ministers or much more often by the Commission. These were not elected bodies. All discussion was in secret and there was no public

record of what was said in the debates or how those present had voted.

Changes were constantly made in the drafts right up to the last moment.

With legislation of this kind nobody outside a narrow circle of Brussels officials could normally hope to know what was actually being enacted.

This was not defensible. It was really a system of authoritarian decrees rather than democratic legislation. As such it could not expect the same respect as ordinary legislation.

He said the motion called on the Government to institute a review of the operation of the European Communities Act, 1972, but this was not necessary. Its real purpose would be to reopen discussion of sovereignty, an issue which had been thoroughly debated in the House during the period immediately before Britain joined the EEC and again during the renegotiation. This was a question they hoped had been settled.

The White Paper on renegotiation did not attempt to gloss over the constitutional consequences of membership.

They all agreed that the system they were operating left a lot to be desired. Many of the difficulties arose from the nature of the procedures they had adopted in the past.

The Government was conscious of the criticisms of MPs.

The Government amendment represented a difference of opinion over the nature of the standing committee to review the Act.

Documents referred to it in considering the Government amendment were to be made available to the public.

The Government amendment was carried by 28 votes to nil, but as fewer than 40 members voted, the debate was adjourned.

The Shops (Amendment) Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 4.27 pm.

trying to do, not altogether successfully.

It was important that they should try to perfect their European legislation process.

There should be effective scrutiny both of the negotiating procedure and of the legislative that it produced.

Mr William Price, Parliamentary Secretary, Privy Council Office (Rugby, Lab.), moved an amendment setting out the procedure for the review of the Act.

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The Government amendment represented a difference of opinion over the nature of the standing committee to review the Act.

Documents referred to it in considering the Government amendment were to be made available to the public.

The Government amendment was carried by 28 votes to nil, but as fewer than 40 members voted, the debate was adjourned.

The Shops (Amendment) Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 4.27 pm.

Ministers to prepare for summit at No 10

Mr Frank Judd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, made a statement about the business to be taken in the EEC Council of Ministers during April.

He said at present five meetings of the Council of Ministers are proposed for April. Foreign and Finance Ministers will meet jointly on April 5; foreign ministers on April 5 and possibly instrument or draft statutory instruments on April 18 and agriculture ministers on April 25 and 26.

Ministers at the joint foreign affairs and finance council will discuss a Commission assessment of Community budget problems and the Community's position in relation to the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, which will resume at the end of April.

Other likely items for the agenda are fisheries matters, regional aid, and a multi-lateral arrangement, participation by the Community in the International Conference on the Law of the Sea, which will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, Malta and Yugoslavia.

Preparation for the second meeting of the ACP/EEC Council of Ministers in Fiji on April 13 and 14 will also be on the agenda. Ministers at the summit conference will discuss preparations for the Downing Street summit conference in London on April 22 and the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund.

Agriculture Ministers will resume consideration of Community policy prices for 1977-78 and related measures.

Mr Douglas Hurd, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said that the Government's policy was to try to get a bit better for Europe and for Britain in the second half than we have in the first.

Mr Judd: The Presidency places a heavy responsibility on the individual in the chair to promote consensus. This is a constitutional responsibility. In promoting consensus, the Government's role is to ensure that the interests of the people who are behind the government are taken into account.

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Albanian pretender held by Thais on arms charge

Bangkok, April 1.—Two men claiming to be members of the ousted Albanian and Shan (Burmese) dynasties were arrested by Thai police yesterday in connexion with the seizure of a huge arms cache in Bangkok 24 hours earlier.

Mr Mroa Shqiparver Leka, the son of the former Albanian King Zog and Mr Khamwong Mangrai, who claims to be a Shan prince, were charged with possessing war weapons.

The police found seven new automatic pistols and 2,000 rounds of ammunition in Mr Leka's living quarters yesterday. The raid came after the discovery of a small arsenal of grenades, TNT, rocket launchers and machine guns in an unoccupied hotel room in Bangkok just before midnight on Wednesday.

Mr Leka, who styles himself as the exiled King of the Albanians, denied the charges and claimed diplomatic immunity. He said that the pistols were gifts from friends in Thailand.

The Thai Foreign Ministry has advised the police that Mr Leka is not entitled to diplomatic immunity.

Mr Leka has lived in England, France, Egypt and Spain since the end of the Second World War.

The Shan suspect claimed to be a descendant of King Mengrai, who once ruled Chiang Mai, now Thailand's second largest city in the northern part of the country.

Sources in New York said that Mr Leka had told a press conference there in recent months that he was training guerrilla forces to harass the Albanian communist Government.

He had already entered Albania, he said, Agency France-Press, AP and Reuters.

Kitchen blaze destroys city centre

Manila, April 1.—A fire that began in a restaurant kitchen razed 21 blocks of commercial buildings in Ozamis City, southern Philippines, yesterday. Fifty people were injured and 10,000 left homeless. The city's fire department was among the buildings burnt down.

The fire, which broke out at dawn, levelled nearly all Ozamis's business district and wiped out adjacent slum areas. At least four banks, the city market, cinema, and government offices were destroyed.

Brigades from two nearby cities were called in to help in the nine-hour battle in Ozamis, which lies on the northern coast of Mindanao Island, 500 miles south of Manila.

The Red Cross estimates property damage at about \$5 million pesos (\$4m). Agency France-Press.

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Tempting Times

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SPORT

Rugby Union

The Geordie accent up front must be matched by the Welsh

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

If Ladbroke have got their prices right, Gosforth will beat London Welsh in the semi-final round of the John Player Cup at Old Deer Park this afternoon, and Waterford will succeed against Saracens at Rindallands. That would make for an all-Ireland final at Twickenham a fortnight hence.

There is only a shade of odds between the two sides, Gosforth, installed as favourites to win the trophy at 5 to 4, and Welsh, listed at 11 to 1. Waterford are offered at 7 to 1 and Saracens, the outsiders, at 10 to 1, so on this basis the London encounter should produce the eventual winners. It certainly looks that way, but you never can tell.

Welsh believe that the visit of Gosforth, complete with their own band of Geordie supporters, will attract a substantial crowd to their ground, second only perhaps to the one that watched them play Cardiff on the morning of an England-Wales game at Twickenham. They have a healthy respect for the power of their opponents up front, realising that they must at least match them in this department to release what they hope may be the faster and more creative skills of their back division.

Gosforth are at full strength, which implies full deployment of their formidable loose ends, but however, it is switched around to enable Dixon, later returned from the Oxford University tour of Japan to play No 8 and Uffley to appear on a flank. That is the official position for which Uffley has been selected for the Lions, although it was not made clear at the time.

It has also been established, en passant, that Gareth Evans, Newport, will play for New Zealand as a fourth wing and not as a fifth centre.

Welsh are not likely to yield an inch in summing up power at lock, where the substantial Roberts and Howcroft have resolved doubts about their fitness, and their loose forwards

have been playing most effectively of late, with Taylor in his sharp, pristine form on a flank area, did not see the game at the best of No 8 available to his country.

That might make the crunch area the front-row, where Deacon, at prop, and Iestyn Thomas, at hooker, are the two changes to the Welsh side that finished 10-10 against the then favourites, Moseley, in the last round, and so came through as the award of the trophy. But I can vouch for the fact that Gosforth, without Uffley, were somewhat fortunate to get by Gloucester.

All in all, today's affair should be hard and close, with the added bonus of seeing England's scrum half, Young, burrowing away behind a substantial crowd to their ground, second only perhaps to the one that watched them play Cardiff on the morning of an England-Wales game at Twickenham. They have a healthy respect for the power of their opponents up front, realising that they must at least match them in this department to release what they hope may be the faster and more creative skills of their back division.

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Added bonus: Young (left) in opposition today to Lewis.



Added bonus: Young (left) in opposition today to Lewis.

on the wing, a position in which they have been hard hit by injuries. They move out Cardiff from the centre, and they also drop their regular centre half, Dowling, in favour of Milford.

I take Waterford to reach the last

round with more confidence than Welsh. When in doubt, it may be no bad thing to plump for the home side. Both the winning clubs can be assured of at least £2,000, so there is plenty to play for, quite apart from the prestige.

Today's cup semi-final teams

LONDON WELSH: C. Fuller; C. F. W. Rees, D. Hughes, J. L. Shandlin, R. Ellis-Jones; W. N. Bennett, A. Lewis; S. Young, I. Thomas; R. Adams, G. Roberts, C. Howcroft; S. Watlow, J. Manfield, J. Taylor.

WATERLOO: S. G. Tickle; J. N. W. Spaven, G. T. Jackson, S. F. Christopher, M. A. Platt; I. Ball, D. J. Cartwright, F. Black; M. J. Fisher (captain), F. Clarke, M. F. Billingham, R. Short, K. Lunt, L. Connor, K. Hancock.

GOSFORTH: R. Patrick; S. Archer, H. Patrick, J. K. Britten, J. S. Gustard, R. W. Breakey, M. Young; C. W. Jones, G. F. Madsen, A. Carter, T. C. Roberts, J. Headley, P. J. Dixon, R. M. Uffley (captain), D. Robinson.

SARACENS: M. Phillips; P. Worfield, T. Smithers, D. Crydon, C. Hanson, P. Hawkins, C. Milford, C. McGee, J. A. Lockwood (captain), R. Holden, E. Riddie, A. Key.

Referee: A. Welby (Lancashire).

Football

Liverpool at their weakest for crucial week

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Although only six first division clubs have played in the past 10 days, the break called for the benefit of the international teams has not been particularly therapeutic. Several of the players who had to drop out of England's party are expected to return to their clubs and other injuries and influenza will affect today's programme which comes at the start of a busy and important period.

Liverpool, who were removed from the top of the league by Ipswich Town's 4-1 win over West Ham United last week and next Wednesday play Zurich in the semi-final round of the European Cup, approach this crucial week looking weaker than at any time in the season. Tottenham to Wales in midweek, will not

have recovered from his leg injury in time to play in Zurich and with Thompson and Callaghan also unavailable, Liverpool will be United before their two challenges, Ipswich and Manchester City, have begun at Maine Road.

Race came in the liver of his, first time at Anfield this season, Ipswich would know that victory would revive their championship hopes after several matches in which they seemed disgraced.

The 11.30 kick-off at Anfield, arranged to ease traffic congestion around Liverpool on the afternoon of the Grand National, means that if Liverpool win and regain the lead, Ipswich could take it back again only a few hours later by winning the race. Ipswich had hoped to have all of the team

fit for the last sprint towards the end of the season, but Osborne has a leg muscle injury and Manchester City will play in his first match since September.

Manchester City, definitely without Tweekie failed a fitness test before England's match with Luxembourg could have Doyle back in the side, but the manager, Tony Book, said it would be better not to risk him too early in the Easter programme. Royle hurt his back at Wembley and is ready to appear in one of the season's most significant games. City are three points behind Ipswich and Liverpool with a game in hand.

If any of the chasing group following Ipswich, Liverpool and Manchester City have an advantage, perhaps it is Manchester United and Aston Villa who have three and five games in hand, respectively. While the game difference remains, 13 games are away from

home, including today's at Norwich where they play without Pearson, who has influenza, but they will have Brian Greenhoff and Kevin Keegan back.

At the time of writing, the best first division teams some problems, are all fit again. As the Easter programme begins, the said: "This will make us or break us in the first division. We have four matches in 10 days and three are at home."

The next 10 days will probably decide whether Tottenham Hotspur will lose their first division status after 27 years. In most of their matches they show hints of promise without seeming to realize the immediacy of the problem. Perhaps a visit to Coventry will help. United, who have been relegated and not having played at home for 10 weeks, they will want to create a good impression.

Rowing

Lightweights could threaten heavyweights

By Jim Railton

A record entry of 387 crews including a large overseas contingent from West Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy, compete in today's Head of the River race (3.45) over the four and a quarter mile course from Mortlake to Putney. Favourites for the head title must be the Leander crew, who have won the race for the last 10 years, in second position, powered by four Olympic silver medal winners in the stern—Crooks, Robertson, Yelland and Clark. In third place is the Olympic coxswain, Patrick Sweney.

ing team entry, three promises to be quite a challenge for the top five places of honour in today's famed professional race. Apart from Leander, leading contenders come from the Thames Traders, two London Rowing Club eights, London University and the successful Oxford University Boat Race crew in the liver of his, starting as a new entry back in 30th position.

Thames Traders contain most of the new national team, after recently formed under Chris Blackwell. London Rowing Club have three interesting and rather exceptional entries. The British Light-

weight eight designates are in two crews in London's colours, starting in fourth and eleventh place, with a heavyweight crew sandwiched between them. The London University eights, world junior medal winners, British Olympic coxed pair, Christine McLeod, and another Olympic coxed pair, Robert and John, are in the tail today's London Lightweights could threaten almost every heavyweight crew.

London University, too, after their victory over Thames Traders in the recent head race at Kingston, will be disappointed not to hold on to their third place,

Yesterday's results

Second division
Notts (1) 3 Hereford (0) 2
Sheff Wed (1) 1
Sheff Wed (1) 1

Third division
Northampton (0) 1 Swindon (0) 1
Sheff Wed (1) 1

Fourth division
Cardiff (1) 4 Haverhill (0) 0
Sheff Wed (1) 1

FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division
Sheff Wed (1) 1
Sheff Wed (1) 1
Sheff Wed (1) 1

Weekend fixtures

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated.

First division
Arsenal v Leicester
Birmingham v Newcastle
Bristol City v Aston Villa
Coventry v Tottenham H
Derby v Stoke
Liverpool v Leeds (11.30)
Manchester City v Ipswich
Norwich v Manchester U
Sunderland v QPR
West Bromwich v Middlesbrough
West Ham v Everton

Second division
Blackpool v Cardiff
Bolton v Oldham
Bury v Nottm Forest
Chester v Blackburn
Hull City v Fulham
Millwall v Orient
Plymouth v Bristol Rovers
Sheff Wed v Charlton
Southampton v Luton
Preston v Bury
Reading v Lincoln
Rotherham v C Palace
Shrewsbury v Sheff Wed
Walsall v Chesterfield

Third division
Brighton v Mansfield
Chillingham v Wrexham
Gillingham v Tranmere
Oxford Utd v Peterborough
Port Vale v Portsmouth
Preston v Bury
Reading v Lincoln
Rotherham v C Palace
Shrewsbury v Sheff Wed
Walsall v Chesterfield

Fourth division
Barnsley v Southport
Bradford v Doncaster
Colchester v Southend
Crewe v Bournemouth
Darlington v Brentford
Exeter v Southend
Huddersfield v Aldershot
Rochdale v Hartlepool
Swansea v Newport
Watford v Wokingham

Scottish premier division

Dundee Utd v Ayr
Rangers v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Partick
Rangers v Hibernian

Scottish first division

Airdrie v Dundee
Clydebank v Morton
East Fife v Arbroath
Falkirk v Dumbarton
Queen of S v Hamilton
St Johnstone v Montrose
St Mirren v Raith

Scottish second division

Bervick v D Strirling
Brechin v Cowdenbeath
Clyde v Alloa
Dumfries v Stenhousemuir
Fotter v Albion Rovers
Queen's Park v Meadowbank
Stranraer v Stirling Alb

Rugby Union

John Player Cup: Semi-final round

W. W. W. v C. C. C.
W. W. W. v C. C. C.
W. W. W. v C. C. C.

Rugby League

Rugby League Cup: Semi-final

W. W. W. v C. C. C.
W. W. W. v C. C. C.
W. W. W. v C. C. C.

Weekend television highlights

BBC 1

Racing: Grand National preview (12.30), Liverpool races 2.0 and 2.35, Grand National (3.15).

Football: Preview (12.30)

Reading v Green (1.10). Table tennis: World championship (1.15). Rugby: Leicester v Widnes v Hull Kingston Rovers (3.45).

BBC 2

Racing: Grand National (12.30). Table tennis: World championship (1.15). Rugby: Leicester v Widnes v Hull Kingston Rovers (3.45).

Table tennis

Amritraj in top gear to dispose of Nastase

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Vijay Amritraj, who was 2-3 down to Hle Nastase after his previous matches, beat him 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 to reach the semi-final round of the World Championship Tennis tournament at Paris Court last evening. The previous day Amritraj had beaten Ken Rosewall 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the first time. After such a success there is danger of an emotional reaction in the next round. But Amritraj again played gracefully, unflustered by the crowd's reaction. He showed a more consistent sense of purpose than Nastase.

Amritraj's victory was a match with an ace and on the seventh point hit a forehand service return of blinding beauty. His sure touch in exploiting a rich variety of spin provided further evidence that his game was working well. But the darker side of Nastase also came to the surface: as the crowd's reaction (never prolonged) indicated that the public were not prepared to stand any more.

More to the point were the deficiencies of Nastase's concentration. From 2-2 up in the first set, he lost it on the fourth point. From 3-1 up in the second he scored only three points in three games. After breaking service at the start of the third set, he scored only five more games. In short, his game was working but his concentration was not. He was not consistently accurate. By contrast Amritraj was always in top gear mentally, though his game was not as accurate as Nastase's. He was studying the techniques of the world's best players in Birmingham, and all this data would be analysed.

Tennis

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All this would take time, Mr Simpson said, and would hardly have a lot of bearing on the 1979 Wimbledon tournament in North Korea. Meanwhile a great deal of time and money was being spent on the development of the world's best players in Birmingham, and all this data would be analysed.

The interesting variations in Nastase's tennis tended to distract spectators from the more solid game of Amritraj, who said later that he went into the match with two things in mind: "When he's at the losing end he always tends to take his time. And when he gets a set-up forward, he always hits to the backhand volley."

For the day in the front of his mind. He was a remarkably good performer: so good that Nastase needed a set-back to keep him in the game. He was a remarkably good performer: so good that Nastase needed a set-back to keep him in the game.

Dick Stockton, 5th fitter and 3rd ball, beat Nastase 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Stockton's style is so natural and uncomplicated, so direct in his measured brutality, that it is easy to forget the difficulty of the shots he plays with such flowing ease. After two games Stockton settled down in a promising way, producing some teasing ground strokes and changes of pace. But from 3-2 and 30-40 he scored only two points and in the second set he became disconcerted and testy.

It was a gratifying result, because Lloyd, who plays off four at Sandwich, was late choice for the team. Eton's only point came in the second match where Kimber and Crickley finished strongly, Crickley hitting from 12 feet to regain the lead at 15-10 and hitting a glorious two wood from the rough at the 17th to deny their opponents any chance of recovery. Chatterhouse were also heartened by the return of I Quick. Nobody is allowed to hang about for long in hospital these days, but it was a surprise to find a record for a man to play a golf match in a half game as he did, one week after having a cartilage

There is no longer any such thing as an open path to the final in this tournament but Chatterhouse were markedly different. Malvern gave a performance that was ruthless and intelligent to beat Haverhill in four games. Haverhill were markedly different. Malvern gave a performance that was ruthless and intelligent to beat Haverhill in four games.

Rosser and McDonald of Malvern beat Wakeley and Ellis of Haverhill 15-10, 15-10, 15-10 and it is doubtful whether they have ever played better. Rosser, a left-hander, was like quicksilver, picking up the most difficult shots, making numerous points on service and roving the court. He and McDonald had decided to make full use of the side-walls against two straight ballers.

Malvern and Marlborough, the holders, will meet in the final of the school's rackets championship at Queen's club today. Their fortunes in yesterday's semi-final were mixed. Malvern were markedly different. Malvern gave a performance that was ruthless and intelligent to beat Haverhill in four games.

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Table tennis

England captain says top players should have an agent as in golf

By Richard Sreeston

As the qualifying competitions wound their way endlessly through three rounds over 15 hours, Peter Simpson, England's non-playing captain, turned his telescope at the world table tennis championships in Birmingham yesterday to the future. He disclosed that in his report to the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) he would make strong recommendations to develop standards comparable with those elsewhere in the world.

Mr Simpson, who is also national trainer and coach, said that the insurance industry, which he believed in as agent of the same, as Mark McCormack in American golf was needed in England to establish standards comparable with those elsewhere in the world.

Keeping the best players in the sport was a major task. Another was to give juniors the chance to continue their adult education while developing their table tennis skills. He said that the insurance industry, which he believed in as agent of the same, as Mark McCormack in American golf was needed in England to establish standards comparable with those elsewhere in the world.

All this would take time, Mr Simpson said, and would hardly have a lot of bearing on the 1979 Wimbledon tournament in North Korea. Meanwhile a great deal of time and money was being spent on the development of the world's best players in Birmingham, and all this data would be analysed.

The interesting variations in Nastase's tennis tended to distract spectators from the more solid game of Amritraj, who said later that he went into the match with two things in mind: "When he's at the losing end he always tends to take his time. And when he gets a set-up forward, he always hits to the backhand volley."

For the day in the front of his mind. He was a remarkably good performer: so good that Nastase needed a set-back to keep him in the game. He was a remarkably good performer: so good that Nastase needed a set-back to keep him in the game.

Dick Stockton, 5th fitter and 3rd ball, beat Nastase 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Stockton's style is so natural and uncomplicated, so direct in his measured brutality, that it is easy to forget the difficulty of the shots he plays with such flowing ease. After two games Stockton settled down in a promising way, producing some teasing ground strokes and changes of pace. But from 3-2 and 30-40 he scored only two points and in the second set he became disconcerted and testy.

It was a gratifying result, because Lloyd, who plays off four at Sandwich, was late choice for the team. Eton's only point came in the second match where Kimber and Crickley finished strongly, Crickley hitting from 12 feet to regain the lead at 15-10 and hitting a glorious two wood from the rough at the 17th to deny their opponents any chance of recovery. Chatterhouse were also heartened by the return of I Quick. Nobody is allowed to hang about for long in hospital these days, but it was a surprise to find a record for a man to play a golf match in a half game as he did, one week after having a cartilage

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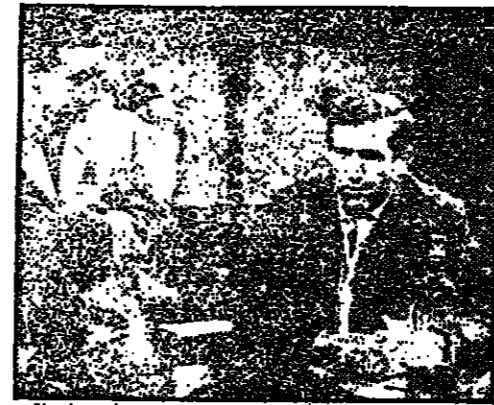
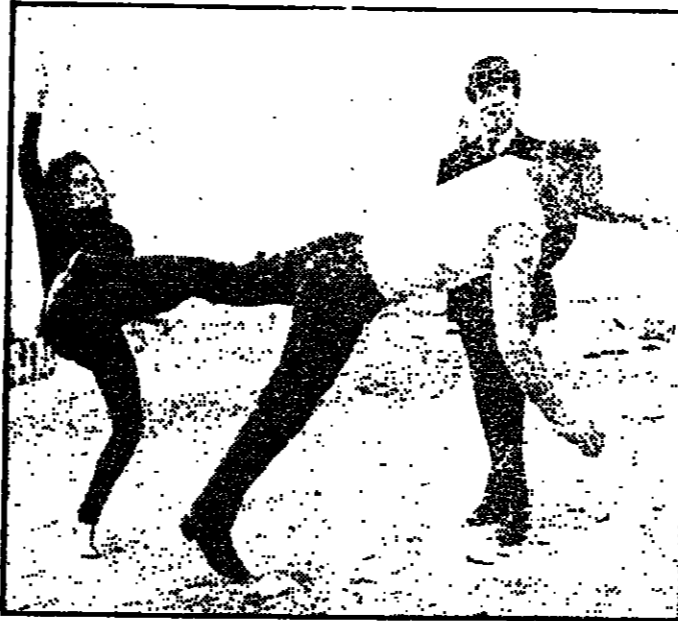
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The birth of The Avengers

Howard Thomas



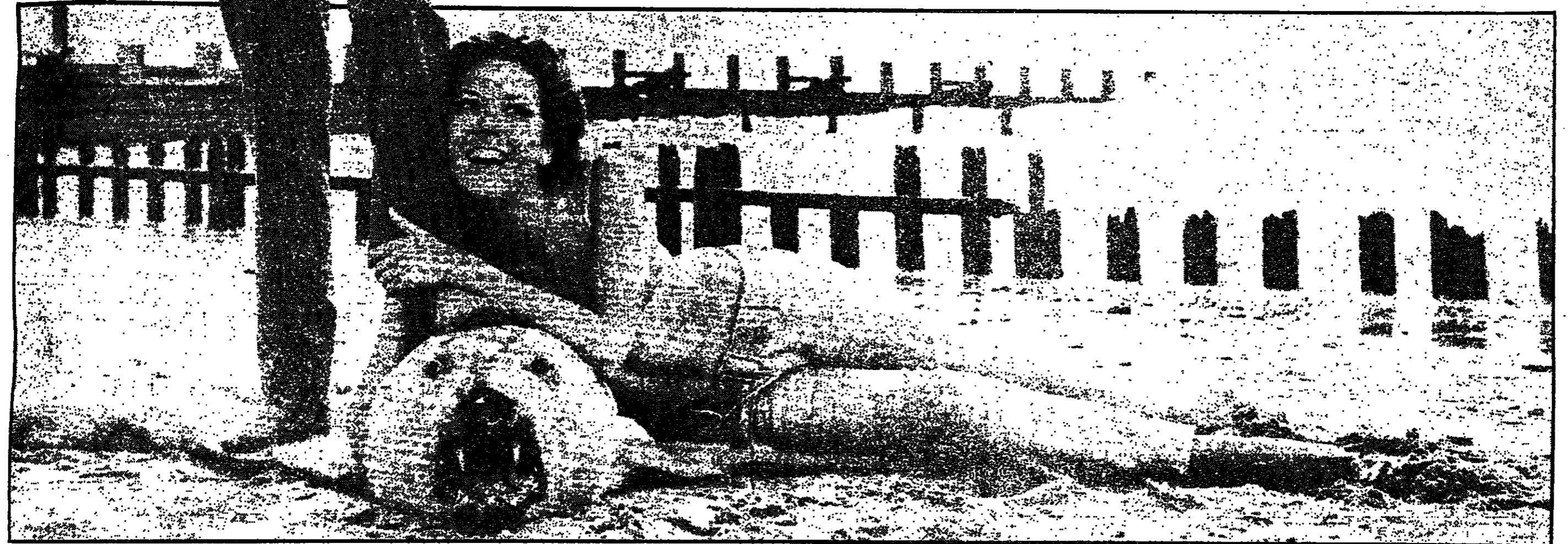
Above left: Macnee and Hendry (right), 1961

Above right: Macnee with Julie Stevens

Far left: Another villain felled

Left: Honor Blackman as Cathy Gale

Below: Dynamic duo of Macnee and Rigg



The early success of Independent Television owed much to Sunday night programme planning, when two-thirds of viewers switched to the combination of ATV's "Sunday Night at the London Palladium" and ABC's "Armchair Theatre". From the outset I had faith in the one-act play specially written for television, and Dennis Vance set up "Armchair Theatre", rehearsed in London for two weeks then broadcast live from Manchester after a single day in the studio. Then on BBC I watched a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation play "Flight into Danger" and found that the producer, Sydney Newman, was a man with a reputation for choosing topical subjects and then schooling writers to turn them into television scripts. "Flight into Danger" was written by a journalist, Arthur Hailey. Sydney Newman flew over to lunch with me at the Ivy on Christmas Eve and within four months joined us at ABC Television.

During Sydney Newman's four and a half years with ABC, Armchair Theatre reached the heights of British television drama although sometimes it also touched the depths of depression. The *Daily Mail* headlined his move with "BBC Signs TV 'Dustbin' Man". This was unfairly sensational but undoubtedly a play series which mirrored life at the end of the nineteen-fifties provided Sydney's dramatists with plenty of depressing subjects.

As the percentage increased of realistic and gloomy plays I suggested to Newman that our drama schedules needed balancing with something more light-hearted and sophisticated. I reminded him of the days when MGM produced sparkling comedies tailored for their contract stars like Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Myrna Loy and Norma Shearer, elegantly dressed and in fashionable settings. Why couldn't we make a series based for instance, on *The Thin Man*, with characters like those made famous by William Powell and Myrna Loy? This suggestion appealed to the ever-receptive Sydney and he came back quickly with a proposal. Seeking popular new series he had coined a title, *Police Surgeon*, which seemed to have the elements of box-office appeal. In spite of the performance of a compelling young actor, Ian Hendry, the first episodes had made little impact. We looked at a newly completed episode in which Ian Hendry acted with Patrick Macnee, an actor who had recently returned to Britain after a few years in Hollywood. In the episode Macnee's girl friend had been murdered and the two men vowed to avenge her death.

Sydney Newman's proposal was that we should team the two actors. Hendry again as a doctor and Macnee as a man-about-town agent. A girl was needed to match them and as we could not decide upon the most suitable of two actresses we alternated across ABC the young actress, Julie Stevens, who had found in Manchester, with a former Rank starlet who had matured into an accomplished actress, Honor Blackman.

The first series of what was now called *The Avengers* began in January, 1961. ATV's refusal

to network it gave the programme an unexpected opportunity for a provincial try-out, the method by which Charles B. Cochran used to polish his revues in Manchester before bringing them to London to confront West End critics and audiences. The first year's run was interrupted by a long Equity strike and it was not until May 1962 that we were able to launch the series in what became the familiar format. Ian Hendry had decided that he had no wish to be type-cast in a regular series and he dropped out, although he continued to appear often for ABC in important plays. Honor Blackman's stylish authority was exactly right for the part of Cathy Gale. Julie Stevens went off in the opposite direction, to become one of the regular presenters in a BBC children's programme.

The Avengers unit quickly became a dedicated team, with an eager young Scot, John Bryce, as producer, working closely with Richard Bates as story editor. Patrick Macnee was dandified in Edwardian style, wearing braided suits and embroidered waistcoats, plus a curly bowler and an umbrella-swordstick. Macnee did not carry a gun but was always ready to use ungentlemanly tactics in dealing with rough customers. Michael Whittaker and Frederick Sparke designed clothes for Honor Blackman, and her man-tailored suits, high boots, leather jenkins and cat suits started fashion trends which became a trademark of the programme. Richard Bates (a son of the author H. E. Bates) had dozens of writers at one time or another working on the series, but the main scripts he selected came from Roger Marshall, Brian Clemens, Eric Paice and Malcolm Hulke.

Produced on videotape at Teddington Studios, *The Avengers* became a national hit once ATV gave in and we were allotted air time in London. Overseas interest was considerable and our film company's distributors in the United States were optimistic of its chances there. The handicap was that there was no satisfactory electronic method of transferring British 405-line television videotapes to the American 525-line standard. The success of *The Avengers*

was due to its appeal on two levels, first as a fast-moving thriller, and secondly, its tongue-in-cheek impudence and way-out situations which captured the more selective viewers. I tried to stimulate our Elstree film people to make a feature film of *The Avengers* or, at least to put Honor Blackman under contract because of her obvious feature film appeal, but without response. Instead Harry Saltzman stepped in and signed up Honor for his James Bond series and she made an instant hit as Pussy Galore.

This was happening at a time when I was encouraging the parent company, ABPC, to invest a million pounds in a film television series of *The Avengers*. At Elstree studios the corporation had made several half-hearted sallies into television film series like *Flying Doctor* and *International Detective* but none of them had recovered their costs. Meanwhile Lew Grade had followed up the Robin Hood film series he had inherited from Hannah Weinstein by making *The Saint*, with Roger Moore, and *Danger Man*, starring Patrick McCool.

Two years ago, the economics of one-hour drama series was that the production cost per episode of a series on videotape like *The Avengers* or *Callan*, with two weeks in rehearsal followed by two days in the television studios, was £10,000 "above the line" plus another £10,000 for studio costs and overheads. "Above-the-line" means the actual cash expenditures on actors, writers, sets and costumes. In television, actors' and writers' fees are based on a single performance in the United Kingdom, with additional payments for repeats and for overseas sales.

A similar script, produced in a film studio at the normal average series rate of five minutes a day, would take two weeks of full studio usage, plus the consequent cost of editing and dubbing music and sound effects. Such film costs averaged £40,000 for a one-hour episode, but this included world rights on actors' performances and writers' scripts. The ITV network would pay £20,000 for two transmissions of these films, so the producer would still need to collect

another £20,000 from world sales to recover his costs. Earnings on this scale were almost impossible to achieve unless the series was sold to America, either through a network or syndicated to a few hundred individual stations. Only ATV and ABC ever succeeded in breaking into the American networks, although years later the BBC managed to get one or two of its costume play series and documentaries transmitted. Partly because of my contention that a filmed series of *The Avengers* would bring a year's work to Elstree studio stages the Board of ABPC finally agreed to let me spend the million pounds on 26 one-hour programmes in black-and-white film.

Julian Wintle was a feature film producer with a reputation for producing consistent films of quality on a commercial basis, and we had already gone through a trial run in making *The Human Jungle*, a series he brought to ABC. Wintle's particular skill was in the editing of film and his post-production touches could provide the gloss and glamour *The Avengers* demanded. I put all the elements of a successful television series at his disposal: producers, directors, script editors, writers, designers, and cast, and so all this he added his own skills, aided by his production supervisor Albert Fennell.

Honor Blackman seemed almost irreplaceable until we came across another actress who was both beautiful and accomplished. Having lost our Cathy Gale to James Bond the script editors invented a new character, Emma Peel. The name was coined by a press officer on the ABC series, Marie Donaldson, based on: "Man appeal—m appeal—Emma Peel! See?"

Wintle and I scrutinized all the rushes and the rough cuts of the first three episodes. They were depressing. The actress was not right for the part. The three episodes were not good enough. I had to make a bitter decision. At a cost of the £120,000 already spent, I had to halt production and find a replacement.

Everyone connected with *The Avengers* and Drama Department came up with sug-

gestions for a new "Emma Peel" and we made screen tests of a dozen young actresses. Many were promising, yet not sufficiently outstanding. Then Dodo Watts, our casting director, asked me to look at an actress she had cast for an Armchair Theatre comedy. The play had just been recorded but not transmitted, and we played it back on closed circuit. The actress was a member of Peter Hall's Royal Shakespeare Company and she was attractive, intelligent, combative and had a fine sense of comedy. She came to Elstree Studios for a film test and (for this was vital) to play a scene opposite Pat Macnee. The chemistry worked—they were perfectly partnered. Diana Rigg was signed up on a long-term contract to play the part.

Our overseas sales were then being handled by Bob Norris, a Californian who, as a consequence of marrying an English girl, settled in Britain. Although interest had been aroused in the States, in spite of the rather fuzzy telecastings of earlier video-taped episodes, there was no sign of a sale to any of the three major United States networks. With half the filmed series completed, and half a million pounds spent, the situation began to look desperate. Norris and I flew to New York to talk to the network bosses.

It was the worst week of my television life. Every day we would set forth from the Gotham Hotel with our cans of film, our charts and statistics, and plod around Manhattan, talking to executives and screening episodes to potential buyers. Every evening we would slump back into our chairs in the hotel and hope for the telephone to ring.

Both NBC and CBS continued to show interest but we encountered the built-in antipathy to British accents and lack of pace which the British film industry has rarely been able to overcome. Again, we discovered, the programme buyers in top jobs at the network were cautious and unadventurous, because their livelihood depends upon successful decisions and they were judged by results at the end of every season. The "mortality-rate" of such American

network executives has always been alarming.

Then I had a stroke of good fortune. I had known for many years the president of the ABC network, Leonard Goldenson, who had come into television from the film world of Paramount and on several occasions he had visited our company, ABC, in London. An anglophile, he appreciated the quality of British production in films, theatre and television and he was most helpful and encouraging. However, sometimes nothing can be more fatal than a boost from the boss and a recommendation or even an instruction from the front office can be the kiss of death to a hopeful performer or producer. Luckily, Tom Moore, the ABC programme executive, had screened several episodes of *The Avengers* with increasing interest, and this confirmation of his own judgment proved to be timely.

By Friday morning, our last day in New York, Norris and I found ourselves with two final hurdles to overcome. The films were in black-and-white and the networks were insisting that all series should now be filmed in colour. We talked our way out of this on the thin excuse that *The Avengers* would have the distinction of being the last TV series sold to America in monochrome. Our remaining hope had been to get the series into the network schedule during the summer months, when the regular programme series were off the air. Otherwise the second and final chance was that our series could be a replacement for one of the other new series which collapsed in the early months of a new season. ABC executives came to screenings of the episodes to inspect the product they might be handling in their respective departments. They all thought her very good, but she was completely unknown. They had never heard of her. She was not even a British star! What the series needed, they were

certain, was a bright young American starlet in the part of Emma Peel.

I refused. The essence of *The Avengers* was in Englishness. That was the quality which basically appealed to them and I insisted it would also be a reason for winning a new audience; something totally unlike any American series. We held on, and Diana Rigg stayed in, to become a television star in the United States as well as throughout the world. Long after, Diana was besieged by all three American networks to appear in a series of her own, built around her, at her own price. Ultimately the vehicle designed for her followed a typical American pattern and could indeed have been played by an American actress, but it failed to be a series of which Diana Rigg could be proud.

Back we came to London, with 13 episodes sold, to try to convert the remaining episodes to colour, even though we would have to go above budget. Weeks of waiting went by, until the first Nielsen Research audience ratings were telephoned to us. Then came the cable when ABC took up the options for the second 13 and, with the series already leaping into popularity, an option for another 26 in colour. *The Avengers* developed into a cult in the United States and even today when I go to New York repeats are still running in the small hours.

A happy moment was when the contracts were signed and we announced the sale to the United States, forecasting how many millions of dollars the series was going to bring to Britain. The *Evening Standard* headlined this as the biggest television deal ever made with the United States. Within a fortnight of publication a furious Lew Grade was on the telephone yelling that it was not the biggest deal. His were always the biggest deals! In fact, *The Avengers* ultimately earned 10 million dollars overseas and revenue is still coming in.

The most pleasing aspect to me was that we had produced the series to British standards and not to American requirements. This has always been the difference in attitudes towards overseas sales between

Lew Grade and myself. He has always preferred to run two business operations: his ATV franchise in the Midlands, and then his other output of programmes designed specifically for the American market. Sometimes I have jokingly reminded him that he should be concentrating on Birmingham, England, rather than Birmingham, Alabama. My policy for the two companies I started was, first, to satisfy the British audience. If in accomplishing that we could achieve international standards of quality we should be able to sell such programmes overseas. This seems to be the BBC policy, as well, and I think that our moderate success in the United States with programmes of quality has done much to maintain the high reputation of British drama and documentaries in America. Our policy has certainly been justified in the important market of Australia where British television programmes, primarily BBC and our own, have now assumed the lead over American products.

The American networks remain a difficult target and at the time of writing Sir Lew appears to have given them up, too, and instead has turned to producing feature films for the cinemas. The gamble of making television film series for the American market has become enormous. The production cost of *The Avengers* (and I presume *The Saint* too) rose from £40,000 to £60,000 an episode. Today it would cost more than £80,000 to produce an *Avengers* of comparative quality. To make the required minimum series of 26 would cost two million pounds, a venture few would contemplate with optimism. Series like *The World at War* were not accepted by the American networks, mainly because there is no room in their schedules for series of 26 one-hour documentaries; but by slogging away around the United States, city by city, our distributors sold this series to 64 individual stations in the principal cities and earned \$1,500,000.

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This extract is taken from *With An Independent Air*, by Howard Thomas, which Weidenfeld and Nicolson publish on April 21 at £5.95.

Collecting

Caribbean charm in the Atlantic

Pious paintings

often rain in the middle of the day.

If you react badly to insect bites, do not forget barbiturates, aspirin and antihistamines. Take a cream and consider taking a mild anti-histamine pill. This helps to keep down the reaction, although it may make you feel a little dizzy. You may feel dizzy anyway. The climate is most relaxing.

How to get there:

British Airways London to Nassau—Apex return (must be booked and paid for two months before) for 14 to 45 days, £236.50, the low season rising to £278.50 in the high. A 27-45 day excursion is £242 to £383.50; Ordinary economy return, £447 to £520. British Airways Sovereign package: 14 hours start at £365 for 14 days in a private house or £485 at the Nassau Beach hotel in the low season, rising to £425 and £54 respectively at the peak of the high season.

Margaret Allen

künde, Basle, and the Österreichischen Museen für Volkskunde, Vienna.

The offering of ex-votos goes back to classical times, when warriors placed their swords or shields in temples after a successful battle, others of a grateful people gave women warriors their belts, veils or cuttings of hair. The custom was revived by the Catholic Church around 1600, when professional and amateur artists were commissioned to paint a representation of an accident or the saving of a city from the plague. Except for the subject matter, they differentiated very little from the usual religious picture.

By the seventeenth century, the commissions were being carried out by craftsmen who were normally employed to paint furniture, inn or shop signs and coats of arms. From the late eighteenth-century onwards, the pictures were painted by simple local artists and if there was any marked decline in technical quality, the time expended in fervour and emotion. The artist was unconcerned with public appreciation and painted with the simplicity of a child, without perspective or cor-

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a large, dark, textured object, possibly a piece of machinery or a large animal, with a curved, metallic-looking surface on the left side. The image is grainy and has a high level of contrast, with deep blacks and bright whites. The curved surface on the left appears to be part of a larger structure, possibly a wheel or a large container. The overall texture is rough and uneven. The image is oriented vertically, with the curved surface on the left and the rest of the object extending towards the right. The top and bottom edges of the image are slightly irregular, suggesting it might be a scan of a physical photograph. The right edge of the image shows a vertical line, possibly a page margin or a binding edge. The overall impression is one of a close-up, high-contrast shot of a large, dark, textured object.

The following examples are taken from the terrible or tragicomic things which a man may do in ex-voto paintings: a man dying by sudden illness, while uttering a serenade on a mandolin; a forester falling off a tree, or raising up his axe, attacks a band of thieves, bears, an angry bull and dogs with a cue during an argument; a man cleaning a well while being hit on the head by a stone; a man being accidentally dropped in to be killed in boiling water; in a Alpine restaurant lost in a snow-storm; people falling off ladders or being kicked by horses; the sole survivor of a group of soldiers in the first world war; a man falling from

Lost opportunities

easy to see the importance early in the game of discarding a North-South game; dealer East.

East
N,

West
No

South S No Trumps West North No

West has the choice between passive and aggressive leads. He has two very high cards for a waiting game because he can be confident that South has an established club suit which will give him an advantage over defenders who have yet to discover how to unite. If West

take his winning ♠3 with the ♠Q. South runs his clubs and discards if he is seeking to preserve his spades.

Being impromptu West probably throws his ♣7 followed by the ♣J, and then reluctantly discards the ♣A, which is unlikely to be the ♣K. Declarer waits for the lead up to his ♣K for his eighth trick and West cannot avoid the end-play because he did not take sufficient care in the first trick to help his partner by his discards. The card which West should have preserved at all costs was his ♠2 and, to ensure that East kept his ♠73, he should have thrown his ♠4 at the first opportunity.

Followed by the ♠J or ♠9, the position after six tricks had been played would then be:

♠ 10 ♠ 10 9 8 3
 ♣ 7 ♣ 7
 ♥ 8 ♥ 8
 ♦ 7 ♦ 7

♠ J 2 ♠ J 2 ♠ J 2 ♠ J 2
 ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣
 ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
 ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

are becoming very rare, however, since many old collections of votive paintings are usually in oil or gouache on wood, and they are on papyrus, canvas or window glass. The saint to whom the votive was addressed is usually the virgin Mary, the infant Jesus, or the infant John the Baptist. Sometimes the donor is shown praying, touched by rays from the saint above, or with flames appearing above his head. The inscription usually reads: "Votum pro gratia ricardus, V.F.G. votum fecit ricardus, V.F.G." (Votive given by Ricardus, Votive given for Ricardus). The course of the country of origin. Many are dated, with the name of the donor, and some have long inscriptions explaining the circumstances under which the votive was made. They have all the vividness of a clearly recalled and often recounted

...in countries, this naive
...of expression and
...are still made. In
...Europe, the other hand, it
...is difficult to be true
...paintings tend to be somewhat
...self-conscious. I thought
...had discovered a modern ex-
...tremely recently, but was dis-
...appointed to find that it was
...the actual subject of the
...struck by a paving stone during
...the student barricades of May
...68 - perhaps it had been
...pointed to commemorate the
...of the student movement com-
...pared from his injury. After
...all, most of us now tend to rely
...on insurance companies rather
...than saints, to come to our
...rescue in times of disaster.
...The other paintings I mentioned
...collectors' market in ex-votos
...dealers to turn to, though they
...are occasionally included in
...the collection of private
...paintings. - Naturally enough,
...they are most often to be found

Jobs r April

soil over both the dahlias and the gladioli.

Florida pruning the roses, and cutting down and tidying up beds or borders of hardy flowers. Apply a suitable fertilizer.

Prune forsythias and winter flowering jasmine.

Put twiggy sticks around clumps of herbaceous plants like erigerons, oriental poppies, veronicas or others that may tend to flop about. Do this before there

Watch carefully for aphids, caterpillars and other pests on the underside of leaves of roses, currants and other plants you know may be affected by pests, and apply an appropriate spray. If blackspot and mildew on roses or other diseases have been troublesome in the past, spray with a suitable fungicide every 10 days.

Sow peas, broad beans, lettuce, radishes, onions, beet.

root, carrots, in the open.
 Sow marrows, runner beans
 and sweet corn in pots under
 glass.
 Plant potatoes.

Roy Hay

**LOSE 1/2 OF YOUR
 CROPS?**

East 10	South 10	West 10	North 10
Dund.	Dund.	Brands.	Brands.
5	5	5	5
Seas	Seas	No	No

Two tricks in the suit.
A commonplace defence which is often overlooked depends on the discard of a high card in the suit which has been opened. It may seem elementary to throw away a winner when you wish to avoid an end-play, but it is not always

For

Let them eat

and mix thoroughly together.
Pour the mixture into a well buttered large loaf tin and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (350 deg F or gas 4) for 1½ hours. Loosen the sides, turn out and allow to cool.

Date bread
Slices of date bread make very nice sandwiches with cream cheese.

Makes 1 large loaf

12 oz plain flour ;	
5 level teaspoons baking powder ;	
4 level teaspoon salt ;	
1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda ;	
3 oz soft brown sugar ;	
4 oz chopped dates ;	
2 oz chopped walnuts ;	
2 oz butter ;	
2 rounded tablespoons black	

then depend on whether an entry can be created in East's hand.

When the ♠5 is led to the ♠Q the only information East can give is a signal with the highest spade he can afford—the ♠6, but this is invaluable when declarer is seen to over-

bread and ca

Pour the mixture into a well buttered large 2½ loaf tin and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (350 deg F or gas 4) for 1½ hours. Loosen sides, turn out and allow to cool.

Banana bread

Makes 1 large loaf

- 8 oz self raising flour;
- ½ level teaspoon salt;
- 6 oz butter;
- 6 oz castor sugar;
- 4 oz sultanas;
- 1 oz chopped walnuts;
- 4 oz red glacé cherries;
- 3 medium sized ripe bananas;
- 2 eggs.

Sift the flour and salt into a mixing basin. Add the butter cut in pieces and rub into the mixture. Add the sugar, sultanas, chopped walnuts and the

that South's ♠A is bare. As soon as West is again on lead he puts his partner on play with the ♠J, discards his ♠J on East's long spade and breaks the contract when a diamond is returned.

Edward Mayer

ke

Malt bread

You can buy malt extract from a chemist—make sure you get malt extract and not the malt and cod liver oil mixture.

Makes 1 large loaf

12oz self raising flour;

1 level teaspoon salt;

2 oz castor sugar;

4 oz suitcases;

2 rounded tablespoons malt extract;

1 rounded tablespoon black treacle;

1 pint milk.

Sift the flour and salt into a mixing basin. Add the sugar and suitcases. Measure the malt extract, treacle and milk into a saucepan and warm over low heat stirring to blend them together. Pour into the dry ingredients and mix very thoroughly.

BUR museums have the collections, notably the Musée des Arts et Traditions Populaires, Paris, the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg, the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, Munich, the Kunsthalle, Bern, the Schweizerische Catholische Museum für Volks-

Examples: you can still have one painted to your own specifications for £40.

Lynne Thornton

The author is a Paris auction expert on nineteenth-century painting.

**WE WISH THAT
I WERE THIRTY SIX
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... sets you will be faced with
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Let them eat bread and cake

Teabreads are served sliced and buttered. They are more interesting than plain bread, but not so rich as cake which makes them very good for children's teas. So that they will slice nicely and can be buttered without the crumb tearing, try to bake them the day before. In fact teabreads keep very well if you wrap them in foil or enclose in a tin, so that they are quite cold. When baked, toast your bread in the same way as a cake, that is by slipping a skewer between the loaf and the tin for a moment to warm it and then push right in. Our there should be no sign of any wet, uncooked mixture.

and mix thoroughly together.

Four the mixture into a well buttered large 2lb loaf tin and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (350 deg F or 325 deg F) for 1½ hours. Loosen the sides, turn out and allow to cool.

Date bread

Slices of date bread make very nice sandwiches with cream cheese.

Makes 1 large loaf

12 oz plain flour ;

3 level teaspoons baking powder ;

1 level teaspoon salt ;

1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda ;

Pour the mixture into a well buttered large 2½ loaf tin and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (350 deg F or gas 4) for 1½ hours. Loosen sides, turn out and allow to cool.

Banana bread

Makes 1 large loaf

8 oz self raising flour;
½ level teaspoon salt;
4 oz butter;
6 oz castor sugar;
4 oz sultanas;
1 oz chopped walnuts;
4 oz red glazed cherries;
3 medium sized ripe bananas;
2 eggs.

Malt bread
You can buy malt extract from a chemist—make sure you get malt extract and not the malt and cod liver oil mixture.

Makes 1 large loaf

12oz self raising flour:
 1 level teaspoon salt;
 ½ oz castor sugar;
 4 oz sultanas;

2 rounded tablespoons malt extract;
1 rounded tablespoon black treacle;
½ pint milk.

Sift the flour and salt into a mixing basin. Add the sugar and sultanas. Measure the malt extract, treacle and milk into a



**SOMETIMES
THERE WERE
HOURS TO**

Particularly when the spacious and warm and sunny throughout the restaurant, and when the menu is an exciting choice of sophisticated folk music and dancing, intimate



**WE WISH THAT
E THIRTY SIX
E VERY DAY.**

and sandy Black Sea beaches stay
as cool as our affable people.
The sun will be back with
its signals and discotheques,
bars and lively restaurants.

[illegible]

An overnight soak in the fruit in this recipe is plump and juicy; the result is a deliciously moist bread.

Makes 1 large loaf

10oz mixed dried fruit ;
7oz soft brown sugar ;
1 pint cold tea ;
1 egg ;
10oz self raising flour.

Measure the dried fruit and soft brown sugar into a mixing basin. Pour over the cold tea and leave to stand overnight. Next day, stir up the ingredients, add the egg and the flour

2 oz chopped walnuts;
2 oz butter;
1 rounded tablespoon black
treacle;
1 pint milk.

Sift the flour, baking powder,
salt and bicarbonate of soda
into a mixing basin. Add the
sugar, chopped dates and wal-
nuts and mix well. Measure the
butter, treacle and milk into
a saucepan and warm gently
to melt the butter. Stir to blend
the treacle and milk. Pour into
the dry ingredients and mix
everything together very
thoroughly.

cut in pieces and rub into the mixture. Add the sugar, sul-tunas, chopped walnuts and the glacé cherries which have been rinsed under warm water to remove the outer sugary coating, then patted dry and cut in half. Peel the bananas, mash to a purée with a fork and then add to the dry ingredients along with the eggs. Mix very thoroughly together.

Spoon the mixture into a well-buttered large 2lb loaf tin and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (350 deg F or gas 4) for 1½ hours. Loosen sides, turn out and allow to cool.

gether. Pour into the dry ingredients and mix very thoroughly.

Pour the mixture into a well-buttered 2lb loaf tin and bake in the centre of a moderate oven (350 deg F or gas 4) for 1½ hours. Loosen sides and turn out. While the loaf is warm from the oven, brush with a hot glaze made by boiling 1 lb sugar and 1 pint water for one minute. Spread 1 tablespoon each of castor sugar, milk and water—this gives the malt bread a shiny top. Allow to cool.

Katie Stewart

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Relax and learn a language with a little help from Bach

The first national conference of suggestion, an amazing and frightening new science, said to be capable of unlocking the reserves of the human mind and harnessing the potential of super-memory, has recently taken place in Bulgaria. A planned world conference, however, has been unexpectedly postponed until next autumn. No reason has been given by the Bulgarian hosts.

This little-known branch of parapsychology concerns itself with ways of putting to practical work the "locked" and unused 90 per cent of the human brain. Its prospects are tantalising.

Suggestion, the psychology of suggestion, has very wide application and has achieved, according to Bulgarian scientists—striking results in the fields of education, psychiatry, neurology and telepathy. It has nothing to do with hypnosis or sleep-teaching.

Dr. George L. Lozanov, its founding father, described his new discipline in an interview with the Sofia evening paper *Vecherny Noviny*, when the Bulgarian authorities first allowed a glimpse at his work. "With suggestion you are always in the waking state and aware of everything around you."

Dr. Lozanov, a physician and psychotherapist with impressive achievements in the field of parapsychology, so impressed the Bulgarian authorities that in 1969 the Institute of Suggestion and Parapsychology was created to further his work. It has a staff of 70 scientists, among them psychologists, physiologists, physicians and engineers.

In the field of education, a rapid-learning method based on suggestion, which Dr. Lozanov calls "suggestion-aided", has reportedly enabled students to complete a two-year foreign language course in 10 days.

Last October's conference heard reports of promising results obtained from the experimental teaching of mathematics with the Lozanov technique in the first form of primary schools.

Papers read at a seminar at the Bulgarian town of Haskovo last February asserted that the Lozanov technique, combining the most advanced scientific methods with old-style yoga "in a mind-to-mind contact between teacher and student", has enabled the students to learn up to 50 times faster without any effort.

The method itself is, in fact, an integration, but in the past few years the yoga techniques have been played down. Its results, according to the Canadian Government, purchased the rights to the Lozanov system within the framework of a cultural exchange agreement with Moscow's Foreign Languages Institute has introduced experimental teachings courses based on it and the Slavic Languages Department of California University is using, without fanfare, the Lozanov technique.

Unesco first took notice of the Lozanov method about 10 years ago, and last spring Dr. Lozanov was invited to Paris for a two-day demonstration at Unesco's educational method centre.

Since there are so many educational wonder techniques "which eventually fizzle away", I asked Mr. John E. Unesco's deputy director-

general, to assess the Paris experiment with suggestion-aided.

"One experiment on our staff involved the use of his technique for learning Italian (he has taught himself many languages). The result was not conclusive."

But he added that Dr. Lozanov was "an impressive and serious scientist whose work deserves attention. There may be danger, however, that his hypotheses, findings and techniques attract associations with less careful investigations or those which tend towards dramatic or careless commercial applications."

Virtually nothing has been published in the western press about Dr. Lozanov's rapid-learning technique. The courses last year, four hours a day, with one break. There are up to 12 students in a class.

Against a background of soft lighting and soothing Baroque music—mainly Bach's Goldberg Variations—the students relax in reclining chairs in the class. Each session consists of three parts: a revision of previous material, presentation of new material and a "passive" and an "active" memory reinforcement.

During the active part, the students must relax and "not think of anything". Each phrase or word is read by the teacher at certain intervals in three different tones and at three different voice levels and the students repeat the words and phrases to themselves subvocally. During the passive session, the students relax, listening to Bach, while the teacher reads the material once again.

The next day the students, both young and old, of varying capabilities, find that they remember perfectly the 200 new words learned during the previous session.

Suggestion has an even more significant application in the field of parapsychology, particularly in the area of telepathy, precognition and extra-sensory perception (ESP). As Dr. Lozanov himself has hinted, "telepathy is an inexpensive and promising communication system for space and underwater exploration."

In the 1960s he had of varying capabilities, find that they remember perfectly the 200 new words learned during the previous session.

Although clairvoyance does not accord with the orthodox materialism of Bulgaria's communist regime, the Government has provided funds for the setting up and staffing of a laboratory in the town of Petrich, which concentrates solely on Mrs. Dimitrova's telepathic talents.

Dr. Lozanov, too, has had a hand in the allegedly uncanny, accurate "oracles" of Mrs. Dimitrova, but apart from a single public statement, admitting that "telepathy and clairvoyance can be cultivated by suggestion", he has refused to speak in public about this potentially more dangerous side of his mind-bending work.

Gabriel Ronay

The Tory triumph at Stechford puts many Conservatives to shame—all too many, not least a number of MPs, some of them former ministers.

I am speaking of those who have been so quick to criticise Mrs Thatcher in an outbreak of personal denigration and disparagement since the loss of the Opposition motion of no confidence in the Government 10 days ago. They have been accusing her not only of making a poor speech in the Commons debate (which is true) but of misjudging the issue and also of wider ineptitude.

The by-election victory must be considered a further vindication of Mrs Thatcher's leadership, a fresh proof of public approval. And of course it is much more: a repudiation of the Government, a call for change, a rebuff to the Liberals and their accommodation with Labour. Within the Conservative Party it is above all a reproach and a reproach to the faint-hearted (and worse) who have again been displaying such a lack of confidence by their conduct during the past week.

To listen to some of them you might have imagined that the Callaghan-Steel alliance was guaranteed to keep Labour in office for ever and a day. It could do so only if the Tory wobblers, the waverers and chameleons (whose instincts are inexpressibly feeble) were to deny Mrs Thatcher due support and if people of liberal disposition were overwhelmingly in favour of the compact which they are not.

What would these critics have said if she had failed to table that motion after the Government had run away from the vote (the non-vote) which preceded and provoked it? They would have said her for "timidity" and incompetence. But it is not only their judgment that is at fault.

"The Tories are awfully bad losers, you know. They've no generosity. That is what a former Conservative Party Minister, whom I shall not identify for the present, once said to me. He exaggerated, too sweeping, too generalised. Nevertheless it was true, and remains true, of over many years. No doubt it is true of other parties as well. The Liberals were not noticeably generous

towards Mr Thorpe. Nor has the Labour Party been consistently generous towards successive leaders. From this we may conclude that there is

small thanks—little gratitude—to be had in politics except for "success". In the contentious sphere of public policy, however, success—like truth—is

often subject to various interpretations, not only between parties but within them.

The probability, let us say, is that the Tories are not less generous than their opponents: if they sometimes seem so it is perhaps because loyalty towards the incumbent leadership is supposed to be such an important aspect of their collective creed. Tending as they do to preach loyalty they are expected to practise it rather more than the next man.

We can now see that by his arrangement with Mr Steel the Prime Minister has achieved one thing. He has gained time—though perhaps not very much. He has managed to defer a general election. That was his purpose, his single purpose. He had no interest in not having the Tories in power, nor in the present influence of the Liberal Party.

It is not Mr Callaghan who has deluded himself, but Mr Steel with his platoon of chocolate soldiers, now rigged out as "Barnier" and "Barnier's son", and their affectations of power. If there were reasons last Saturday for suggesting (as I did) that David Steel had probably succeeded in dislodging the Liberals, the evidence has since become all the stronger and not only because of Stechford.

Mr Steel's act of collaboration may indeed have wrecked the Liberals as a distinctive independent force. While there are members of the Liberal Party who uphold his decision there are—I repeat—many people of liberal disposition who reject it and feel deeply offended by the compromise. This foretells a net loss for the Liberal Party, not a net gain.

Lord Hailsham was speaking about the alliance (or rather misalliance) in Oxford the other night. He is the best (and I hope not the last) of our Tory philosophers. As he said, the Conservatives have now become the only national Opposition.

Recognising the dangers contained in the strange partnership, Lord Hailsham also recognised the opportunities for the Tories. Perhaps the faintest of them now cotton on to them too.

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George Hutchinson

Why Mrs Thatcher is the real victor of Stechford



Mrs Thatcher after the by-election

result: a fresh proof

now of public approval

towards Mr Thorpe. Nor has the Labour Party been consistently generous towards successive leaders. From this we may conclude that there is

An occasional series on new words and new meanings

Why such an unkind word for the old?

Other ages and cultures have respected and indeed venerated old age. Present society in the United Kingdom and especially the United States has made a golden calf of youth, and is consequently embarrassed by the subject of old age. We are terribly frightened of growing old, and of trying, and fall into periphrasis and euphemism when we try to talk about them.

The Victorian middle classes were embarrassed by sex; and went to the absurd extremities of covering up their legs by referring to trousers as "unmentionables. Ancient and modern swearwords were sexual, for swearing performs the cathartic function of shocking by saying the unsayable. Today, by repetition and familiarity, the explicit sexual words are losing

their sting to shock. Before long at this rate the most shocking insults will no longer be sexual but senile and moribund. Men purple with rage will find relief in screaming at each other that they are senile old ruins or putrefying cadavers.

We should treat old people better, if only for the unbecoming prudential reason that we may one day grow old ourselves. But to call them senior citizens, though it is done from gentle motives, is a circumlocution worthy of the comfortable concentration camps for the old in Florida and California, where the old are shut away from society as though the disease of age were infectious. To say that somebody has passed over or passed on or passed away is a chilly euphemism.

And now there is a fashion for using geriatric as though it were a jocular and somehow less depressing synonym for old. Geriatrics comes from two Greek words meaning old age and "relating to the physician", and means the branch of medicine or of social science dealing with the health of old people. It was coined in the *New York Medical Journal* of 1909 as the opposite of paediatrics. Gerontology is a related word meaning the scientific study of old age and the process of ageing.

Geriatrics accordingly has a clearly defined and useful meaning as an adjective: concerned with the medical care of the old. But it is being widely misapplied as if it meant merely old or very old or amusingly old, because a long, learned

word is felt to be less brutally precise than a common short one. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, claimed in an interview on his appointment that he was a geriatric squash player. He looked a remarkable fit and healthy man. But possibly he can be given the benefit of the doubt, and assumed to have been using the word correctly. Perhaps the local paper that referred to geriatric high jinks at an old people's home was using the word soberly and vividly, and understood what it was saying. But when a motoring correspondent wrote the other day of a geriatric car battery, the time had come to cry: "Hold, old enough!"

Philip Howard

Marcel Berlins

An astonishing vintage year for Moselle, but take care

How often do we hear of the "Wine of the Century", even when the century has lots of life in it yet? We can all think of plenty of those, and possibly the most notoriously the 1959s in Bordeaux. Promotion gimmicks, we say, and look away.

As March fades into April with all the grim skies and raw bite to it, the wines are in along the Moselle. They are in cask in dripping cellars, with the non-return gas vents still in the bungholes as the fermentation comes to rest. And those who charge already know that the 1976 vintage is the best since 1921. They are indeed astonishing.

The Moselle valley is a spectacular place, lofty and precipitous. The great wide river turbid and swollen like all European rivers now sweeps down its sinuous course. This course, like Kipling's, would make a tapeworm giddy.

The river is flanked on either side by a grey glacis of vineyards rising high into the sky till crowned by a ragged fringe of black pine forests. Here and there along the banks nestle little villages whose names are household words—Urzig, Whelen, Piesport, Reil, with big brother Berncastel about the middle.

Up the top of the river, at the Luxembourg border, lies Trier, near the confluence of the two massive tributaries of the Ruwer and the Saar amid even more spectacular scenery—and some more famous names such as Cochem, Berncastel and Serrig. And the whole lot, apart from the more unpromising north-facing slopes, is one huge vineyard.

Unlike the Douro, it is not terraced. The vineyards are steep, but continuous. They are intersected by service roads along the contours here and there, and the stakes to which the vines are trained run always in precise rows up and down hill.

The properties are usually small and highly individual and well known. The nomenclatures, confusing at first sight, are basic and logical even if sesquipedalian. First the village, then the vineyard, then the grape, then the quality. These glorious vineyards that show the degree of selectivity, culminating in the accolades of Trockenbeerenauslese or Eiswein.

For those who are not masters of wine, these two terms denote individual selected grapeberries allowed to have contracted the Noble Rot that has dehydrated and so concentrated them, and grapes that have remained on the vines till frozen when they were picked and the ice left in the press so that once more the juice was concentrated.

There was no Eiswein in 1976, for reasons I will tell. But first I should mention that the name of German wines has been defined by the new wine laws of 1971. By these the appellations are basically grouped in districts known as *Bereiche*. Thus the Moselle is divided into four, the best known perhaps being the *Erbsenrebe* (Bereiche), which includes Berncastel, Obermosel, Mosel, Saar and the top.

Individual small holdings too numerous to classify are grouped into joint appellations so that some well-known names disappear into larger units of

terminology. Thus there may be changes—but the wine remains the same.

Or more or less the same. The Moselle has been said to be all planted with the Riesling grape in future regulated growth of others will be recognized.

Now the 1976 is nearly ready for us. It is a small crop—the long hot summer scythed and concentrated the grapes on the stem—but a wonderfully rich one. So rich and concentrated that the grapes had to be very early if there were to be enough juice left to make wine at all. So no grapes remained to be frozen into Eiswein.

In such a year all the grapes are, as it were, upgraded in the scale of selection so that the simple Qualitätswein (if simple is the word) would be as great as a Spätlese, and so on. And at the top end of the scale, for instance, a 1976 Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese drawn from its half-cask for tasting seemed so concentrated and charged and insipidated that it resembled a liqueur more than a Moselle.

The Beerenenauslese of the same wine more truly kept the delicacy and fresh character of the true Moselle wine.

In a short time they will be bottled. And here 1976 sets a problem. German wines, not only Moselles, are bottled in Germany. And the skills and standards of surgical asepsis and chemical cleanliness have to be exceedingly high; if not, disasters can easily happen.

With virtually all bottling done at source, the skills and care are over-stretched, and for some years a cunning way round this has been in practice—"hot bottling", it is called. The wine is virtually pasteurised to kill the yeasts, at 68 degrees C. For common table wines such as Liebfraumilch and the like this does not affect the taste.

But for the Qualitätswein and better this is not so good. It will certainly be drinkable after a few months in bottle, but being biologically dead will not keep and will go flat and dull and will, in fact, deteriorate. A vintage such as 1976, which is not to be kept and treasured and sampled over the years ahead as a fragrant memory—it won't be. So an urgent problem has arisen, for in such a great vintage universally the cold-bottling skills will not go round, selected grapeberries allowed to have contracted the Noble Rot that has dehydrated and so concentrated them, and grapes that have remained on the vines till frozen when they were picked and the ice left in the press so that once more the juice was concentrated.

There was no Eiswein in 1976, for reasons I will tell. But first I should mention that the name of German wines has been defined by the new wine laws of 1971. By these the appellations are basically grouped in districts known as *Bereiche*. Thus the Moselle is divided into four, the best known perhaps being the *Erbsenrebe* (Bereiche), which includes Berncastel, Obermosel, Mosel, Saar and the top.

Reginald Bennett

The author is chairman of the House of Commons Catering Committee.

Marie-Noelle Kelly

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A SUBURB OF CRAFTSMEN

The Stechford by-election is obviously a very severe blow to the Lib/Lab pact. It is not necessarily a fair representation of general public opinion. Stechford is only one constituency, and attitudes to the pact may vary from one part of the country to another, but it is the first opportunity that a parliamentary electorate has had to pass judgment and they have passed it most emphatically.

It is true that the Liberal candidate, Mr. Gossell, has not himself initially sympathized with the pact and floundered in trying to adjust his campaign to it. Yet he was a well established Liberal candidate, with a first-class organization supporting him, in a constituency he had contested at the previous General Election. He polled less than half the votes that he had won at the last General Election whereas the actual Conservative vote increased by some 40 per cent.

Mr. Steel's pact with Mr. Callaghan is that such a vote of conditional support in the history of the Liberal Party. The first was Mr. Asquith's decision to put Ramsay MacDonald in as the first Labour Prime Minister in 1924. The second was the support that Lloyd-George gave to the second Ramsay MacDonald government in 1929. Both times Liberal support was necessary to allow a minority Labour government to conduct its business, and both could be justified in terms of the need to carry on the government of the country. In both cases, the electoral results were disastrous for the Liberal Party. The election of 1924 produced a large Conservative majority and a collapse in Liberal membership of the House of Commons, which fell from 159 to 40. The 1929 parliament ended with the Liberals split and produced an enormous majority for a Conservative dominated coalition. Liberal representation in the House of Commons has never recovered from the 1924 defeat.

The historical parallels do, therefore, show that Mr. Steel has taken a very big risk in supporting a minority Labour Government; all the bigger because it is also an unpopular Government. At first it seemed that the Liberals might gain support as a result of their increased credibility. The Liberals are now seen to have an

influence on the decisions of government and to be involved in the making of national policy for the first time since 1945. A considerable number of Liberal supporters have called to the pact because they see the advantage of it. The disadvantage however is equally clear. A proportion of Liberal voters, usually thought to be rather over half, consists of voters who would normally vote Conservative if there were no Liberal candidate in their constituency. If they vote Liberal now they are voting for the maintenance of the Labour Government in office, not merely for a limited period but indefinitely. Mr. Steel has been talking about the pact lasting for a considerable period of time until the economic situation had improved, perhaps in 1978 or perhaps even later.

Voters who want to get the Government out cannot be expected to vote for Liberal candidates who will keep the Government in, and the evidence at Stechford is that they refuse to do so. Some ex-Liberal voters may have voted for the National Front candidate who beat the Liberal in the fourth place. These are the pure protest voters who cannot protest against the Government by voting for a party which is supporting the Government. Others undoubtedly switched their votes to the Conservative.

The Stechford result is not going to make the Liberal members of the present parliament any the more keen to precipitate a General Election. That is certain. Yet at the same time the future of the Lib/Lab pact depends upon its success. If it seems merely to be a way of postponing the evil day then it is likely to be eroded on both sides. Only if it can be seen as a way of producing a successful national policy will it have enough life in it to survive for more than a few months.

Unfortunately for that prospect, the Stechford result is equally bad news for government policy. The question is whether the large class of people who have been discriminated against by the incomes policy, a class typified by the toolmakers of British Leyland, are going to accept another year of progressive reduction in their differentials and their standard of living.

Clearly the more serious choice is between the three different electoral systems. The arguments against using a simple majority system for European elections have been rehearsed often enough in these columns, and it is very heartening to see them at last being given due weight by the Government. No doubt calculations of party advantage or disadvantage in thought that a mid-term election in eighty-one single-member constituencies would be rather like eighty-one simultaneous Stechford by-elections have concentrated the Government's mind; it should be further concentrated now by Mr. Callaghan's promise last week "to take full account of the Liberal Party's commitment" to a proportional system, and by the knowledge that if that promise is broken the Government will no longer have a parliamentary majority. It should also be noted that the only positive statement of intent in the White Paper is that, whatever happens in the rest of the kingdom, a proportional system will be used in Northern Ireland. The object of this is, of course, to ensure representation of the Catholic minority. But the Unionist majority can hardly be expected to accept that in a

national election Northern Ireland be prevented from voting by the same system as everybody else.

If this is accepted, we are left with a regional list system and STV. A national list system is not seriously considered, apparently because it would involve voting for parties rather than individuals. In the particular form of regional list system which the Government outlines for us (and which appears to be the system recently suggested by Mr. Michael Streed) his would be avoided. The elector would cast one vote for a named candidate with or without party affiliation. The total votes cast for all the candidates of each party would be calculated, and the parties allocated seats in proportion to their total share of the poll. Within the parties the seats would be allotted to the named candidates who received most individual votes.

This system seems admirably designed for this particular election. It is considerably less complicated than STV, though in the eyes of Miss Lakeman and her followers it falls short of it in excellence, giving slightly less influence to the voter and slightly more to the parties. The Government suggests that the names of candidates should be listed alphabetically on the ballot-paper, irrespective of party. That would seem to give an undue advantage to candidates whose names begin with A or B. It would be better to put the non-party candidates at the top (to ensure they are not overlooked) and then group the candidates for each party together as a list. It would not even be intolerable to allow the parties to decide the order of their own lists, since the voter would not after all be obliged to respect it. But in any case, either this system or STV would be greatly preferable to the non-proportional "first past the post" system.

has not been caused by central government directly - indeed the number of grants available from the Department of Health and Social Security has been increased - but by cuts in local authority expenditure. The remedy, therefore, seems to be within the power of the local authorities themselves. They are always anxious to preserve their local autonomy and they now have an opportunity to do so. The personal social services are primarily a local responsibility, or so we are frequently told, and "a fatiguing social work education is really a major priority" then perhaps local authorities should put their money where their mouths are.

Finally it should be remembered that the maintenance costs of students undertaking social work training, the issue in question, are financed by central and local government. The present "crisis"

Liberal pact with Labour

From Lord Gladwyn
Sir, Professor Hayek, that great prophet of what President Giscard d'Estaing calls "old-fashioned" Liberalism, and hero of our more right-wing Tories, believes that no Liberal can now vote "Liberal" - thanks to the British Liberal Party's (justified) support of a British Socialist Government (Letters, March 31).

I suggest that the British political scene as contemplated from an ivory tower in Freiburg becomes rather distorted. The whole point of the recent arrangement was to encourage, not to facilitate, the passage of Socialist measures of which two-thirds of the country disapprove.

Incidentally, would the Professor maintain that the German Free Democrats, who are now in a coalition with Socialists, should no longer receive any "Liberal" support?

Yours faithfully,
GLADWYN,
Lords.
March 31.

From Mr. Andrew Phillips
Sir, Professor Hayek (March 31) has it wrong. The Liberal Party is not keeping "a socialist government in power" but only a Labour government in office. The difference is both real and profound.

Yours truly,
ANDREW PHILLIPS,
Prospective Liberal Parliamentary Candidate,
Saffron Walden Constituency
Liberal Association,
89 Bradford Street,
Bocking,
Braintree,
March 31.

From the Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund
Sir, Your announcement (March 31) that the National Art Collections Fund had agreed to participate up to £250,000 in an interest free loan needs further elucidation lest your readers should think that we are using our carefully husbanded funds in a reckless manner.

The executive committee feel so strongly that Memmore and its contents should be saved for the nation that at this eleventh hour it has offered to lend the Government £250,000, one quarter of the Fund's free capital, on condition that it is repaid in five annual instalments. The total cost to the Fund of this interest free loan would be about £75,000. If the auction sale goes forward the NACF might easily find itself in the position of being asked to contribute such a sum towards the purchase of a few outstanding pictures and pieces of furniture.

Under the terms of our charter our loan would have to be linked with the acquisition of some of the works of art, and we would have to be assured that the house would be open to the public as a museum or in the same manner as a National Trust house, and that the works of art would be properly maintained.

In taking this lead the Fund hopes that other institutions, with a hundred times the NACF's resources, will also produce an interest-free loan, and that if there is any shortfall it will be made up by a further contribution from the Land.

Yours faithfully,
BRISLEY FORD,
National Art Collections Fund,
14 Wyndham Place, W1,
April 1.

The Budget: freezing prices

From Mr. Tim Fortescue
Sir, In his Budget speech, the Chancellor said that the Government intended "to prevent any unreasonable profit mark-up" by retaining margin control and "by taking a new power to freeze a particular price for up to a year when an independent investigation shows this to be justified". This must have sounded reasonable, since no subsequent speaker commented.

The purpose of my letter to you, Sir, is to point out that the Chancellor's words differ significantly from the proposals for price control published by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection which provide for a three-month price freeze, pending investigation. We have no way of knowing which of the Government's two voices we are to believe.

In his consultative document *New Prices Policy* issued on February 22, Mr. Hattersley announced that when the Price Commission decided to investigate a pre-notified price increase the price which it was proposed to increase would remain frozen for three months (beginning from the date on which the investigation was announced).

No question of justification for the freeze (as stated by the Chancellor) arises here. It will be a matter of shoot first and ask questions afterwards. The freeze is to be imposed without reason or explanation, and three months later the Commission can express its regret that there was no justification for it, and allow the price increase. The company concerned has lost three months' legitimate income: and there is no redress.

The Food and Drink Industries Council has told Mr. Hattersley that such arbitrary power in the hands of a non-elected body is intolerable in a free society. We have had no response; but the Chancellor seems to have taken the point. We must now assume either that Mr. Hattersley has made a concession, or that the Chancellor has got it wrong. There are unfortunately more precedents for the latter assumption than for the former.

Yours faithfully,
TIM FORTESCUE,
Secretary General, Food and Drink Industries Council,
12 Castlet Lane, SW1,
March 31.

From Mr. Ian C. Macdonald
Sir, The burdensome increase imposed by the Budget upon the rural community of 5p per gallon on petrol is accompanied by an increase of 13p on farm tractor diesel to 37p per gallon - an increase of £40 on an order for 1,100 gallons. In five years the cost of diesel has risen by 493 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
IAN C. MACDONALD,
Higher Hill Farm,
Butleigh,
Glastonbury,
Somerset,
March 30.

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Improving life in inner cities

From the Bishop of Birmingham and others
Sir, The Secretary of State for the Environment is shortly to issue a White Paper containing the Government's proposals for tackling the problems of the inner city. May we urge that in preparing his proposals, consideration be given to the following points:

1. We must recognize that the problems facing these areas cannot be solved by local government acting alone. They need to be tackled collectively, by central government if necessary establishing ad hoc agencies with resources to generate economic activity but answerable to the local authority. Collaboration, to be effective, must also include the people living in these areas. We need to overcome the frustrations of "citizen participation", particularly in localities which have lost hope. But restoring a sense of morale is not only one of our goals, it is a means immediately to hand, provided we can overcome the antagonism which has often grown up between community groups and local government.

2. We must face squarely the need for positive discrimination, if the process of decline in these areas is to be halted and reversed. As you yourself have pointed out in a recent editorial, positive discrimination can only be justified on the basis of identifiable need. We accept that there are other areas of need outside the metropolitan conurbations. Whatever resources are made available, it is important that procedures for allocating them should be well understood, speedy, and applied locally.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE BIRMINGHAM,
DAVID LIVERPOOL,
MERVYN SOUTHWARK,
Titchard House,
Dean's Yard, SW1,
April 1.

From Mr. A. M. Spooner
Sir, What is Mr. Levin trying to prove in his article in the *Times*? That Communism is evil and that we in the West have a monopoly of virtue?

The events that he describes are similar in spirit, if not in scale, to recent events in Uganda. The Khmer Rouge regime in the name of Communism, Idi Amin Dada in the name of Islam. The choice of which anti-imperialist creed to follow is purely a matter of historical circumstance. We do not condemn Islam because the faith is perverted in Uganda.

Why does Mr. Levin dwell on the brutality of the Ba'athist Rouge soldiers? Communism as an ideology is not to blame for the alienation caused by armed conflict. The brutalizing effect of warfare is well documented; the obvious indifference of the pilot to those he is bombing is more than the more personal forms of brutality displayed by the low-technology Khmer Rouge. We should not feel culturally and morally superior because we have the capability to massacre by remote control in the Balearic Islands.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. SPOONER,
45 Canfield Gardens, NW6.

From Mr. Douglas Cottrill
Sir, The letter from your Mallocan contributor (March 31) is very intriguing. He was right to be a little incredulous, but only so far as the identity of the butterflies is concerned. I am certainly very glad to think that whatever he saw had been able to survive the insecticides.

It is very difficult to hazard a guess at the actual identity of the insects he saw. The Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea athalia*) has never been recorded anywhere in Spain earlier than May (*M. phaebe*) apart from one (*M. aetherea*) which is very local in the extreme South around Algeciras.

I would expect the only butterfly of any other name and size and colour of a small fritillary flying in Malloca in March to be the small local form of *Lesimnata megera* referred to as *ab. intermedia* Muschamp or *paramegera* Ruebner, but your correspondent's description of their flight characteristics does not really seem to fit this species. If he could capture one specimen it would be possible to solve the mystery by his taking a photograph.

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS COTTRILL,
Greenbank,
Collyford, East Devon.

From Mr. M. E. Hayward
Sir, There has been a lot of talk on the radio and television and in the *Times* about the wonderful response of flowers and vegetables to encouraging talk and beautiful music. Can any expert in these matters please tell me why, when I go down my garden and say rude things to my weeds, they do not wither and perish?

Yours,
M. E. HAYWARD,
Sunny Bank,
Shoreham Road,
Otford, Kent.

Letters to the Editor

From Mr. Tim Fortescue
Sir, In his Budget speech, the Chancellor said that the Government intended "to prevent any unreasonable profit mark-up" by retaining margin control and "by taking a new power to freeze a particular price for up to a year when an independent investigation shows this to be justified". This must have sounded reasonable, since no subsequent speaker commented.

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March 30.

Social work training

From Mr. Ken Judge
Sir, Mr. Tom White (March 25) has put forward a powerful plea for the Government to make available additional funds for training social workers in the next academic year. Although it is indisputable that the present economic situation will have adverse consequences for the development of social work education, it is not self evident that the Government should be persuaded to give priority support for at least three reasons.

First, because there are so many other legitimate and pressing calls on limited public resources, for example, youth unemployment, and raising the tax threshold for low income families. Second, it is arguable that the present complement of qualified social workers is used

inefficiently so that higher levels of social work output could be achieved, by greater use of ancillary workers. I have developed this argument elsewhere ("Economic Analysis and Productive Efficiency in the Personal Social Services in the Personal Social Services", *International Journal of Social Economics* Vol. 3, No. 2, 1976), but it is worth remarking that even the General Secretary of the British Association of Social Workers has admitted that too many social workers are "spending a lot of their time doing things for which they are not trained and which other people could do just as well, if not better".

Finally it should be remembered that the maintenance costs of students undertaking social work training, the issue in question, are financed by central and local government. The present "crisis"

has not been caused by central government directly - indeed the number of grants available from the Department of Health and Social Security has been increased - but by cuts in local authority expenditure. The remedy, therefore, seems to be within the power of the local authorities themselves. They are always anxious to preserve their local autonomy and they now have an opportunity to do so. The personal social services are primarily a local responsibility, or so we are frequently told, and "a fatiguing social work education is really a major priority" then perhaps local authorities should put their money where their mouths are.

Yours sincerely,
KEN JUDGE, Lecturer in Social Administration,
University of Bristol,
12 Priory Road,
Clifton,
Bristol.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

كتاب من الأعمال

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

Carter energy programme calls for tough action to reduce oil use

From Frank Vogt

Washington, April 1.—President Carter's comprehensive energy programme, to be announced on April 20, will contain proposals that are likely to bring big changes in American living styles. The measures are designed to bring about a decline in American demand for foreign oil.

The broad basis of the President's programme is being clarified by White House officials in talks with politicians and reporters. Crucial decisions dealing with the state government subsidies and implementation of several energy schemes have still to be decided by President Carter.

Proposals will seek to increase domestic coal output to more than 1,000 million tons a year by 1985 from the present level of about 655 million tons. These proposals will probably include a temporary suspension of some environmental standards in order to give a spur to strip-mining.

In addition, a scheme is under consideration that would force companies now using natural gas to switch to coal. Dr. James Schlesinger, the President's special assistant for energy affairs, is considering a number of proposals that will provide financial relief to companies forced to switch from natural gas to coal. Direct subsidies from the Government to major power plants are also being weighed in this context.

In addition, the Administration is considering a number of proposals that will provide financial relief to companies forced to switch from natural gas to coal. Direct subsidies from the Government to major power plants are also being weighed in this context. The phased decontrol of American oil prices is also contemplated. A decision has been taken, it is believed, that will ensure that decontrol is implemented over a lengthy period of time. The view at the White House is that too sudden price decontrol would have too much of an inflationary effect. The President's plans will provide government funds for an accelerated programme of solar energy research. Funds will also be made available to support research into technology likely to produce coal results, either by producing other forms of energy or by conserving energy. Nuclear reactor programmes are to be slowed.

The programme will call for the establishment of a 250 million barrel strategic oil reserve by the end of next year.



Dr. James Schlesinger: considering tax aids for energy conservation.

increasing to 500 million barrels by 1980.

A large part of the President's programme will consist of energy conservation proposals, some of which will involve mandatory requirements. Under consideration, for example, is a scheme that will force all home-owners to ensure that their homes are insulated up to standards set by the federal government. Payment for this insulation might be through local utility companies and some tax deductions may be allowed individuals partly to offset insulation expenses. The mandatory home insulation proposals will also be extended to companies, where a series of specific insulation standards are to be issued by the Government. Some tax relief may be offered to companies in this context.

Mr. Carter has still to decide whether or not to favour a large federal petrol tax. He is said to be opposed to this, although he may advocate it if opposition in Congress is seen to be too strong in some other conservation areas.

Also under consideration is a plan for a special tax on large cars that have high petrol consumption. The Administration does not intend to modify the tough laws compelling car makers to produce more fuel-efficient models. The companies are being required to produce cars with average consumption of 27 miles per gallon by 1985.

Devaluation by three Nordic block countries

Brussels, April 1.—Sweden, Norway and Denmark, in a snap move tonight devalued their currencies against the other members of the European joint float, or "snake", it was announced tonight.

Mr. Willy De Clerck, Belgian Finance Minister, told a press conference that a meeting of "snake" ministers here had agreed to a 6 per cent devaluation of the Swedish crown and 3 per cent devaluations of the Norwegian and Danish crowns. The exchange rates of the other "snake" currencies—the Deutschmark, Dutch guilder and Belgian and Luxembourg francs—remain unchanged, Mr. De Clerck said.

The devaluations are effective from next Monday. Mr. De Clerck, who chaired the meeting, said the Scandinavian countries had decided to devalue mainly for balance of payments reasons. Despite the changes in their exchange rates the three countries will remain in the "snake" system. The joint float is a European Community mechanism, but Norway and Sweden are associate members of the "snake". News of the devaluations came after European foreign exchange markets had closed, but trading halted temporarily in New York as dealers assessed the impact.

MLR move keeps bill rate in line

By John Whitmore Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England's ploy of setting the minimum lending rate at 9½ per cent on Thursday just succeeded in keeping the weekly Treasury bill tender in line with its wishes yesterday.

But it did not prevent Treasury bills trading in the market at rates envisaging a further cut in MLR before Easter. In setting MLR at 9½ per cent on Thursday, the Bank was aiming to keep the average rate of allotment at the weekly Treasury bill tender in the range 8.75 to 9 per cent.

The average rate of allotment was in fact 8.745 per cent—more than half a cent down on the previous Friday—and the market-related formula for setting MLR was automatically reactivated. In subsequent trading, however, three-month bills were changing hands at prices equivalent to a rate of less than 8½ per cent—and a rate which, if maintained through to next week's tender, would point to a cut of a further ½ per cent in MLR.

Other interest rates also eased further yesterday. Rates in both the six-month and three-month inter-bank markets continued to slip with rates in both cases hovering only just above the 9 per cent level.

Equities suffer another bout of profit-taking

By David Mott

The stock market in London ended the week on a low note as both equities and gilts were hit by another round of profit-taking.

The FT ordinary share index closed another 6.9 lower, at 412.5, leaving it 5.6 down over what has been an eventful week. Gilts lost up to 1½ p. The problem for the equity market is lack of short-term incentive now that half a year has passed since the market was pegged at its present level for some time. In the gilt-edged market the prospect of floating-rate bonds and the new short "tap" gave an early boost to the long date. But the buying was not sufficient to counteract profit-taking.

"Shorts" were lowered by half a point, even though some late buying lifted prices off the bottom. Application lists for the new short "tap" open on Wednesday and there is expected to be a heavy subscription. Investor's week, page 19

The Times Index: 169.49—2.75
The FT index: 412.5—6.9

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.61	1.56
Austria Sch	32.50	32.00
Belgium Fr	65.00	62.00
Canada \$	1.85	1.80
Denmark Kr	10.38	9.98
Finland Mk	6.25	6.00
France Fr	8.75	8.44
Germany DM	4.27	4.05
Greece Dr	64.75	61.25
Hong Kong \$	8.50	7.75
Italy L	153.00	149.00
Japan Yn	500.00	475.00
Netherlands Gld	4.45	4.25
Norway Kr	9.36	8.90
Portugal Esc	68.25	64.25
S Africa Rd	1.87	1.74
Spain Pes	121.50	113.50
Sweden Kr	6.50	7.15
Switzerland Fr	4.34	4.22
US \$	1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia Dn	34.25	32.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only. All supplied by Reuters. Different rates apply to inter-bank and other foreign currency markets.

Reporters pages 19 and 20

Unit-trusts: Barclays Unicorn 17

American trade restrictions a special case, President says

Protectionist fears over shoe curbs

From Our United States Economics Correspondent Washington, April 1

President Carter today took a tough protectionist stand in deciding the first major international trade issue that he has had to deal with. His decision may lead foreign governments to question the degree to which he is committed to world trade liberalization.

President Carter said he has decided to grant import relief to the American shoe industry. It is a very reluctant to restrict international trade. "In any way," he said, and added that "only problems as extreme as those faced by the American shoe industry could force me to seek even modest mandatory limits on imports."

Mr. Robert Strauss, United States special representative for trade negotiations, went to considerable lengths at a White House conference to stress that today's decision should not be seen as any sort of signal to foreign governments on American trade policies. He repeatedly stated that the shoe case was a very special one.

The President said that he has ordered Mr. Strauss to start negotiations immediately with those countries that are the prime shoe exporters to America with the aim of reaching orderly marketing agreements to question the degree to which he is committed to world trade liberalization.

Mr. Strauss said that in these negotiations he would "very definitely" seek to reduce shoe import levels. The negotiations must be completed within 90 days and they will primarily involve Taiwan and South Korea. The future of these negotiations could lead President Carter to impose tough quotas and high tariffs on shoe imports.

President Carter noted in a comment clearly designed to assuage foreign fears of increasing protectionism that "over the long haul the solution to difficulties in the shoe industry lies not in the restriction of imports but elsewhere—in innovation and modernization of our own production facilities and the financing to make these possible."

Mr. Strauss pointed out that shoe imports have more than doubled to nearly 190 million pairs from Taiwan in the last two years, while they have increased from 9 million to more than 40 million pairs from South Korea in this period. He noted that without government action there would be further large shoe import gains this year. The value of American shoe imports is about \$1,500m (\$832m) a year.

President Carter pointed out that because of foreign competition the number of American shoe manufacturing companies has fallen by 40 per cent to 380 firms since 1968, while employment in the industry has declined by 70,000.

He decided to reject a proposal to impose special trade quotas now, in favour of seeking negotiated orderly marketing agreements. In addition, in an action that some foreign observers may view as indicating a course that this Administration may take towards other United States industries seeking protection, the President said he would propose legislation in the next three months that would provide government assistance to the shoe industry here.

Today's decision might raise fears that foreign countries may retaliate by imposing trade restrictions of their own. Restrictions on shoe imports had on television set imports, which is another matter the President must shortly decide, are widely being viewed as test cases of the Administration's foreign trade policies.

A cynical and worrying view of what presidential decisions favouring restrictions could produce was recently noted by Mr. Harold New Cleveland, a prominent New York banker, a vice-president of Citibank, who said that by imposing restrictions the President gave to the world a pretty convincing signal that his Administration will not effectively resist protectionist forces.

In brief

Electricians defy union in Port Talbot strike

By Roger Viole Energy Correspondent

Ashland Oil, a Kentucky-based oil company, is expanding its interest in the North Sea by acquiring a 21.7 per cent stake in the field, which is due to begin producing oil towards the end of next year.

Ashland said yesterday that the deal was subject to approval by Mr. Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and clearances by other government agencies. Mr. Orrin E. Atkins, chairman and chief executive of Ashland, said Ashland would reimburse Santa Fe for one quarter of its development costs from yesterday until the transaction was complete.

The field is expected to produce a maximum of 220,000 barrels of oil a day through direct loading into tankers initially. Once the Brent pipeline system into Shetland is complete, tanker operations will be discontinued.

The deal is one of a number of changes in ownership that have taken place in the Thistle group. Last year the British National Oil Corporation paid \$7m for 65 per cent of Bursmah Oil, 22 per cent interest in the field and for a 95 per cent interest in Bursmah Oil Development, the operating company.

Japan's foreign reserves last month rose \$174m to \$16,997m. This is the highest total since March 1973, when reserves totalled \$18,125m, before falling to \$16,834m in April 1973.

In February, the reserves stood at \$16,834m, up \$343m from January when reserves fell by \$124m.

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs has called for an early meeting with the Commercial Union Assurance to negotiate bargaining rights after a certificate of independence to the Commercial Union Group Staff Association was refused.

Two hotels sold for \$4m. According to reports from Toronto yesterday the purchase price by the TIT subsidiary, Sheraton Hotels of Boston, for the Skyline Heathrow Hotel and the Park Tower Hotel in London has been agreed at \$7m (about \$4m). The hotels are owned by the Canadian Skyline Hotels company.

Gas pipeline study. British Petroleum, Imperial Chemical Industries, Rio Tinto Zinc, Total and Elf are to take a one-third stake in a company set up by the Government to study a North Sea gas gathering pipeline network.

World Bank aids Kenya. International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank, is providing \$2m (about £1.2m) to aid financial and advisory services to small and medium-scale private enterprises in

any Argentine takeover either of the island or the land on which the Falkland Islands Company, without the agreement of the islanders.

Answering a question in the Commons earlier this week, Mr. Rowlands, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said: "No land can be alienated on the Falkland Islands without the permission of the Falkland Islands Government itself; the British Government would not support such a move."

But the Shackleton report on the islands, 7,500 miles from Britain yet with a staunchly pro-British population of 1,900, concludes that economic co-operation with Argentina would provide the best future.

So, although any immediate takeover of the Falkland Islands Company by Argentine interests is not constitutionally possible some deal to share development with Argentine business interests may still be worked out.

One fact that Charrington has had an approach through Banque Occidentale, subsidiary of Sir James Goldsmith's General Occidentale group, is confirmation that

Argentina sources have been interested. Charrington denies that talks with Argentina over the sale have taken place and this is strictly true. It is understood the approach was made by Banque Occidentale for an unnamed client, and Charrington refused to enter into negotiations on this basis.

But as Señor Hector Francisco Capozzolo, an Argentine businessman, whose interest bought the former properties of Bovril Argentina from Charrington, has said he was negotiating with FIC, it seems likely that he was behind

the Falklands company, which Charrington bought as part of Mr. Michael Buckley's investment vehicle. During the takeover of the company, made a trading profit of £82,000 to March, 1976, when wool prices were low, but £75,000 in better conditions the previous year.

The company, which is involved in sheep trading and supplying the islanders, accounts for about 45 per cent of the island's gross national product.

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Crash kills broker in £2m Milan scandal

A Milan stockbroker died last night in a motor car crash a few hours after being declared insolvent with debts of £1.66m.

The Milan Bourse was shaken by the announcement yesterday of liquidation proceedings against Signor Ignazio Federico di Giorgi, 68, the dead man, and Commissioner Giuseppe Cappellotti, who were found to be unable to cover accounts totalling £2m.

Signor Cappellotti has disappeared, as have his documents and accounts. The liquidation has raised once again questions about the efficacy of Consob, the Stock Exchange Control Commission which must see to it that investors are protected from such cases.

Signor di Giorgi has been accumulating shares mainly in "Trenno"—a company which owns the Milan reservoir and runs the bookmaking activities there—apparently with the intention of reselling them.

Press reports suggested that the would-be buyer was Alain Delon, the French film star and businessman, but Bourse sources said it was more likely that Signor di Giorgi hoped to sell them to Trenno's existing majority shareholders.

These are tense times for Trenno. Its chairman, Signor Vittorio di Capua, was kidnapped on March 6 and is being held for ransom.

Signor di Giorgi had accumulated more than 40 per cent of the Trenno shares but got into difficulties when the company decided to increase capital, and the price of its shares plummeted on the stock exchange.

The final blow came when the banks backing him withdrew their support. Other operations by Signor di Giorgi involved Soritalia and Coscani shares.

Doubts about his activities had been expressed in the stockbrokers' committee to Consob, but the Control Commission took no action.

The case had aroused further criticism of Consob. It has frequently been charged with excessive prudence, as well as lacking both the manpower and the legal "teeth" to do its job properly.

Signor Giacomo Stannetti, the Treasury Minister, has promised to submit a bill to Parliament by the end of April to reform Consob.

Patricia Clough

Argentina bid for Falkland Islands Company appears to be doomed

By Nicholas Hirst

Attempts by Argentine business interests to buy the Falkland Islands Company, which is owned by the islanders' shareholders, from its British owner, the quoted Charrington Industrial Holdings, now look doomed.

Political and diplomatic difficulties over any deal are immense and although Charrington could, in a willing seller, be determined to keep faith with the islanders and the authorities.

In any case the British Government has set itself against

any Argentine takeover either of the island or the land on which the Falkland Islands Company, without the agreement of the islanders.

Answering a question in the Commons earlier this week, Mr. Rowlands, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said: "No land can be alienated on the Falkland Islands without the permission of the Falkland Islands Government itself; the British Government would not support such a move."

But the Shackleton report on the islands, 7,500 miles from Britain yet with a staunchly pro-British population of 1,900, concludes that economic co-operation with Argentina would provide the best future.

So, although any immediate takeover of the Falkland Islands Company by Argentine interests is not constitutionally possible some deal to share development with Argentine business interests may still be worked out.

One fact that Charrington has had an approach through Banque Occidentale, subsidiary of Sir James Goldsmith's General Occidentale group, is confirmation that

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Patricia Clough

American economic growth predicted to rise by 4pc

From Our United States Economics Correspondent Washington, April 1

The pace of economic growth in the United States is now quickening, according to private and government economists. Real gross national product is widely seen as rising by 4 per cent at an annual rate in the current quarter.

Unemployment figures for March, released by the Department of Labour today, add strength to economic forecasts. The total of people out of work declined to 7.3 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis last month from February's 7.5 per cent level.

The Department noted that the high rate in February was largely due to abnormally cold weather. The decline in March showed that the effects of the employment slump and the weather were only temporary.

Mrs Juanita Krebs, Secretary of Commerce, told a business conference that the bad weather probably boosted the first quarter's inflation rate by about one-half of 1 per cent point, while it probably cut the real

gdp rate by around 1.5 per cent on an annual basis.

Current estimates, she said, suggest real growth this quarter "will be about halfway between the weak 2.6 per cent annual rate of last year's fourth quarter and the roughly 6 per cent rate we hope—and expect—to achieve during the remainder of the year."

Private economists hold very similar views to those now being outlined by the Government's experts. Mr. Alan Murray, a vice-president at Citibank, is also predicting a real annual growth rate this quarter of about 4 per cent, while the latest Wharton School economic forecast sees an advance of 3.76 per cent.

A substantial gain in total American employment is expected this year, with the Wharton School forecasting a possible rise of 3 per cent for example. However, most economists doubt if there will be a sharp decline in the total number of jobs because of further substantial growth in the labour force, which this year alone may be more than 2.5 per cent.

Gold was \$1 an ounce up at \$149.125.

SDR's was 1.15932 on Friday, while SDR-E was 0.674356.

Commodities: Renter's index was at 1736.1 (previous 1731.2).

Reporters pages 19 and 20

How the markets moved

Falls

Allen H. Ross	10p to 400p
Byrvores	20p to 350p
Deputy Day	21p to 18p
Decca	10p to 300p
Dunlop	7p to 97p
Egg Ridges	4p to 41p
Fisons	5p to 340p
GBbs A	4p to 44p
Hawker Sid	15p to 51p
Imp Chem Ind	5p to 37p
Imp Coat Gas	10p to 37p
Kliff	25p to 325p

Rises

Crosby House	11p to 123p
Hamling Assoc	19p to 126p
Int Timber	8p to 97p

Equities were hit by profit taking, ground.

Dollar premium 115.62 per cent (effective rate 42.640 per cent).

60-day certificates also lost. The effective rate was 61.8 per cent.

On other pages

Bank Base Rates Table 20

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Round-up

New funds for the US and Japan

Surinvest, the unit trust and investment management group, is one of the United Kingdom pioneers of index-linked funds—a concept that has become increasingly fashionable in the United States.

Last year it launched its American Index unit trust and was manager to Oceanic's United Kingdom Index Fund. This week it unveiled the Japanese Index Trust, which will invest in 34 major Japanese companies selected by size and sector representation to match as nearly as possible the performance of the Japanese stock market.

The main plank in Surinvest's argument for index linking is that the conventional management approach is the use of the unit trusts specialising in the Far East or Japan managed to beat the Tokyo index after allowing for the fall in sterling and the rise in the investment currency premium over the past five years. So the figures demonstrate not so much the virtues of index linking as the importance of the method used to fund overseas investment.

Over the five-year period three major funds rose by an average of 102 per cent as against a rise of 92 per cent in the Tokyo index. But adding in currency gains and the premium brings the latter figure to an equivalent of 253 per cent for a United Kingdom resident.

Surinvest has therefore opted to invest with yen bought through the investment currency market rather than by overseas borrowings.

Obviously a fund that adopted this approach over the past five years would have substantially outperformed the Japanese market merely on the basis of the weakness of sterling. Surinvest is taking the view that sterling is unlikely to stage any sustained recovery. If it did, there would be a disadvantage in investing through the premium.

Investors should be aware, that the currency aspect might well overshadow (for better or for worse) the index linking investment policy. Minimum investment in Surinvest's Japanese Index Trust is £500.

Unit trusts

M & G chief takes the chair

It must seem ironic to many in the City that the chairmanship of the Unit Trust Association, whose members control, at the last count around £2,700m of investors' funds, should have devolved upon M & G's Edgar Palamoutain.

For M & G, founder of the United Kingdom's unit trust movement back in the 1930s, has often preferred to paddle his own canoe in matters where the rest of the industry were inclined to present a common front through the UTA. M & G did not even join the association until five years ago.

More recently, in 1975, David Hopkinson, one of the more hawkish representatives on the industry's investment protection committee (IPC) resigned his position as chairman because of the frustrations of attempting to stimulate concerted City action over the Distillers Company.

M & G still tends to steer its own course. A few weeks ago, when representatives from the unit trusts met Sir Hugh Fraser, then chairman and main shareholder in Suits, M & G arranged its own private consultation.

But Mr Palamoutain, who this week settles into a two-year tenure as chairman of the UTA, describes M & G's relationship with the rest of the industry these days as "very happy, very united."

A spry 58-year-old much given to pacing the floor when explaining a point, Mr Palamoutain first joined M & G 19 years ago, rising to managing director and deputy chairman. He is also chairman of the executive of the Wider Share Ownership Council, a platform that gives him ample scope to expound his highly political views on the economic and investment scene.

As chairman of the Unit Trust Association his top priority, as was his predecessor's, is the strengthening of the industry's ties. Although negotiations with the Department of Trade appear to have dragged on for ages now, Mr Palamoutain feels there is a particular urgency that was not so apparent in previous years.

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Mr Edgar Palamoutain: "Institutional involvement with companies is an unresolved and never to be resolved conflict."

small, but embarrassing casualties among the fund management companies, although the links that many groups have with merchant banks has, he feels, camouflaged the difficulties.

Management companies, he believes, should be viable enterprises in their own right, and this he claims is well high impossible on the current scale of charges.

He is anxious that the new fee structure should enable groups to be profitable within their existing amount of funds, rather than relying, as he believes many are now doing, on the loading in initial charges on new investment to save them from going into the red on their operations.

The UTA is proposing a new structure consisting of an initial premium of 5 per cent plus an annual charge of 1 per cent

as against the current 13 per cent over 20 years. In addition Mr Palamoutain is determined to pursue the matter of charging auditors and trustee fees to unitholders rather than to the management company. He argues that, as a point of principle, the unitholders should pay for these services which are, after all, for their own protection.

Most of the unit trust industry will be happy with this, but Mr Palamoutain's thinking on some broader issues appears curiously at variance with the view of others prominent in the movement.

Earlier this week the outgoing UTA chairman Tim Simon, chairman of Target declared: "We also believe that the unit trust industry, in common with other institutions, should recognize its responsibility of caring for the interests of its investors

in more ways than can be satisfied by the requirements of good fund management alone."

Mr Simon went on to say that the association should ensure that "the British investors' interests on a broad range of issues should not go unheard."

Mr Palamoutain is significantly less enthusiastic about the capacity of the unit trust industry to stimulate sluggish or stubborn companies. He believes that the first duty of managers is to the funds entrusted to them. If they do not like the way a company is behaving they should, in most circumstances, sell the shares.

Only if the company is so small and the shareholding is so significant should there be any question of the institutions remaining as holders and influencing management.

He categorically does not believe that the unit trust

movement can hold itself out as the saviour of the small investor, as many commentators would have it do. The whole problem of institutional involvement with companies, he declares, is an "unresolved and never to be resolved conflict."

Ultimately the institutions have neither the time nor the capacity to manage, therefore they should think very carefully about opposing incumbent managements.

He is conscious of the fact that recent City upheavals have not shown institutional initiative in a particularly potent light. Sir Hugh Fraser, for instance, having been confronted by the IPC's delivered not so much of a slap in the face, more of a knock-out punch by them selling out to Louth.

This may be all rather different from the knight in shining armour approach favoured by many in the unit trust industry, but it does have the virtue of being realistic. He is aware that what suits the institutions may not necessarily suit the private shareholder at all.

He cites the case of Louth as a prime example of a company whose management is regarded with suspicion by most City institutions. Yet it is a fact, he declares that if the management were altered the company would probably do less well for its shareholders.

Although unwilling for the UTA to shoulder any moral commitment to the investing public at large Mr Palamoutain is obviously concerned for the investment protection committee to do what limited amount it can to reconcile the often conflicting demands of members and present a united front on some issues.

He is very much in favour of strengthening the concept of non-executive directors as watchdogs for all shareholders, although he admits that events in some of the City's more notorious fiefdoms have exposed its shortcomings.

But although institutional shareholders have recently found themselves in unwilling receipt of a number of well aimed custard tarts, Mr Palamoutain maintains, comfortably, that the investment protection committee will continue to "do more good than harm."

Margaret Drummond

Budget: taxation

SEPARATE TAXATION OF WIFE'S EARNINGS—1977/78

	Incomes aggregated	Separate taxation Husband	Wife
Earnings: Husband	7,000	7,000	2
Wife	3,000		3,000
	10,000		
Less Married allowance 1,225			
WEIA*	805	2,030	
Single PA		805	805
Taxable income	7,970	6,195	2,195
Tax payable:			
@ basic rate 33% (6,000)	1,980	(6,000)	1,980
@ 40% (1,000)	400	(195)	78
@ 45% (970)	436		
	2,816	2,058	724
Joint total			2,782

Tax saving under separate taxation £34.
* Wife's earned income allowance.

Strategy changes may be needed

Assuming that the Chancellor of the Exchequer gets his satisfactory pay deal the basic rate of tax will be reduced from 35 per cent to 33 per cent in 1977-78. Although the thresholds of the rate bands will increase, the higher rates themselves will remain unchanged, so once a person's taxable income exceeds £6,000 the first jump in the tax rate will be from 33 per cent to 40 per cent.

This difference of 7 per cent in the lower rates is not the largest in the short history of our unified system of personal taxation. When it first came into being in 1973-74 the basic rate was 30 per cent and the next rate jumped 10 per cent to 40 per cent.

Nevertheless a seven points difference might give some taxpayers, hovering between 33 per cent and 40 per cent, reason to pause and consider whether some action should be taken to ensure that they keep themselves within the confines of the basic rate.

It is taxable income that counts, which means income from all sources, less personal allowances and deductible outgoings, such as interest paid on one's house mortgage, alimony and maintenance payments made under a legally binding agreement and pension contributions. So a person's income can be considerably higher than £6,000—by the total of the personal allowances and outgoings to be precise—and still be kept within the basic rate band.

Just in case anyone thinks that life insurance premiums reduce taxable income, a reminder that since the change-over to the unified system, life insurance premiums have not been regarded as a personal allowance; any increase in them will not therefore reduce taxable income. The relief is given in terms of tax, one-half of the basic rate times the premiums, so with a reduction in the basic rate to 33 per cent the relief will be 36 per cent instead of the present 17 per cent.

Just how far one is prepared to go to keep out of the 40 per cent slice is a subjective judgment based very much on one's cash requirements. Clearly there is no point in buying a bigger and better house to get extra tax relief on interest (the £25,000 loan limit permitting) if it means not being able to meet normal living expenses.

The increase in the single person's allowance (from £735 to £805) and the married allowance (from £1,085 to £1,225) combined with the lifting of the threshold in the higher rate bands, has an interesting result so far as separate taxation is concerned.

Married couples who in the past have claimed for the separate taxation of wife's earnings may find that for 1977/78 it is no longer advantageous to continue to do so. The levels of income at which it will be beneficial for 1977/78 will depend

on the deductions for personal allowances and outgoings, and the respective earnings of the spouses.

The illustration in the table gives a guideline. Assuming that that total income consists of £7,000 earned by the husband and £3,000 earned by the wife, and that they have no deductions other than the basic personal allowances, there is a tax saving from assessment of only £34. If there was a mortgage, for example, it would be but not to claim. However, there is plenty of time to think about the deadline for withdrawal of a claim—April 5, 1979.

Turning to the investment income surcharge, the thresholds have been increased resulting in a small tax saving. For those under 65 years of age the starting point is raised from £1,000 to £1,500. The first £500 in excess of £1,500 is taxed at 10 per cent and the excess over £2,000 is taxed at 15 per cent. The maximum saving is £50.

Over 65s have a higher starting point, which has been increased from £1,500 to £2,000. The first £500 in excess of £2,000 is taxed at 10 per cent and the excess over £2,500 at 15 per cent, the maximum tax saving being £75.

The amount of tax-free interest on ordinary deposits with the National Savings and Trustee Savings Bank is increased from £40 to £50. This is a useful area of investment for children, as well as adults, as the exempt amount does not count as taxable income and is not therefore taken into account in calculating the child income limit.

There will be considerable variations in PAYE deductions over the next few months. The reduction in child allowances for 1977/78, foreshadowed before Christmas, take effect from the first pay day after April 6.

Fathers who pay tax at the basic rate and whose child or children are entitled to child benefit will find that their pay packet is reduced by 70p per week regardless of the number of children. The higher rates will suffer a larger reduction; 80p a week for those in the 40 per cent rate band; 90p a week for those in the 50 per cent rate band and so on upwards.

On the other hand mothers can claim £1 a week tax-free benefit for their first child from April 4. As a result the totality of families will be a little better off under this new system, but this will not be so where father's tax rate is over 50 per cent.

For the first pay day after May 17 taxpayers will receive the benefit of the higher personal allowances. A married man paying at the basic rate will receive an extra 94p a week in his pay packet and a single person or a married working woman will have an extra 47p. In general those paying at the higher rates will also get the benefit of the increased thresholds in the first pay day after May 17, although those with more than one employment may have to wait until April 3.

In view of its conditional nature no rate has yet been announced for the implementation in the tax tables of the lower basic rate.

Vera Di Palma

Fixed interest investment

Courses of action as rates come down

At this stage in the credit cycle—Thursday's one point cut in minimum mortgage rate to 9 1/2 per cent has brought it to within half a point of its 1976 low—I would under normal circumstances be advocating masterly inactivity. But not this time. Today, even though I think that the bull market in gilts has a little further to run, I'm advising anyone putting up a basic rate to put their money into the building society.

Yes, I know that the building societies will be putting their rates down in the near future. After the banks cut their base rates by a point and a half, the building societies will be putting their rates down by 1 1/2 points last week this is inevitable. But in a few weeks' time I think it may be possible to judge the course of future rates much better.

If, as I suspect, they are put down again, you'll have a lot more freedom of action than a term investment would have given you. You might have missed some capital gain on investment in a gilt, but you'll have eliminated the possibility of a capital loss; and the return you're getting on your investment in the meantime is much higher.

What's more, by that time it's quite possible that the floating rate band, on which the

Government is now taking "certain preparatory steps" to issuing, will be on the market. The 10 per cent would have held until Monday.

There are, of course, higher rates available for those who are set on sucking their money away for a longer period: West Yorkshire will give you 12 1/2 per cent for a two-year investment of £1,000, and the same amount on a five-year term will earn

you 13 per cent with Birmingham. But I really think that this is the wrong moment for going long.

And finally, what of the high taxpayers? The arguments for capital gains as opposed to income are, of course, as high as ever: the only question is by what strategy to obtain it. I think there is a reasonable likelihood that interest rates

down so fast on Friday that there is no guarantee that that 10 per cent would have held until Monday.

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FIXED INTEREST RETURNS AFTER THE RATE FALLS

Institution	Min/max deposit	Term	Gross rate to basic rate taxpayer	How interest paid
Building societies investment acc'ts	25p/£10,000	On demand	12	Net
Term shares	Variable/£10,000	2-4 years	12.9-14.7	Net
Clearing banks Deposit acc'ts	£1/£10,000	7 days' notice	5	Gross
Med-term deposits†	£10,000/£25,000	7 days/1 year	8 1/2-8 13/16	Gross
Gilt-edged stock				
Treasury 11 1/2% 1979	£	Negotiable	11.2	Gross*
Treasury 12 1/2% 1983	£	Negotiable	11.2	Gross*
Treasury 13 1/2% 1987	£	Negotiable	12.4	Gross*
Local authorities Yearling bonds	£1,000	1 year	10 1/2	Gross
Mortgages	(see text)			
FF††	£1,000/£25,000	3 years 10 years	11 12 1/2	Gross
National Savings Nat Savings Bk	25p/£10,000	On demand to £30	7.7	First £50 tax-free
Investment acc'ts	£1/£	One month's notice	10	Gross
Savings Certificates	£1/£1,000	4 years' maturity	11.09	Gross
Brit Savings Bonds	£5/£10,000	5 years' maturity	8 1/2	Gross 4% tax-free bonus on maturity
Trustee Savings Bank Ordinary	5p/£10,000	On demand to £30	6.15	First £40 tax-free
Special Inv depts	5p/£	7 days' notice	7	Gross
£100/£	1 year	8 1/2	Gross	

†These rates are for illustration only, ask on application; *Free of tax on residents abroad; †No limit.

Budget: self-employed pensions, annuities

No improvement for the less well-off • Loophole closed

It is the "small print" which matters—not only in insurance policies but also in Budget speeches. Many hard pressed self-employed may have thought that they will be able to put aside more, on a tax free basis, towards a personal pension. The catch is that the improvement applies only to those earning more than £15,000 a year after various deductions.

It is proposed to increase the upper limits on contributions for the self-employed and those in non-pensionable employment from £2,250 to £3,000 (for anyone born in 1916 or later). But the other limit of 15 per cent of net relevant earnings is not being altered. So, there is no change for those earning less than £15,000.

The monetary limits (but not the percentage limits) also go up for those born in 1915 or earlier—gradually rising to

a new maximum of £4,000 (or 20 per cent) of net relevant earnings for anyone born in 1907 or earlier.

Once again, the Chancellor has failed to acknowledge that it is not only those born before 1916 who should be allowed to contribute more than 15 per cent. In today's conditions, 15 per cent of earnings is unlikely to produce a particularly good pension at retirement; the contribution needs to be larger than that.

Any company which has a good pension scheme for employees will confirm that, for reasonable benefits, the contribution generally is a higher percentage of salary roll. Understandably, the self-employed feel this is discrimination against them.

For those who are eligible to pay higher contributions, this is one of the finest forms of saving. In view of the tax advantages. Full relief of tax

can be claimed on one's contributions—so that effectively they are paid out a gross basis from one's top slice of income.

The insurance company's pension fund operates on a gross basis and when one chooses to take the pension (at any time between the ages of 60 and 75), part of the pension can be exchanged for a tax free cash sum, with the remaining pension counting as earned income for tax purposes.

As before, up to a third of the maximum contribution can be devoted to a life assurance contract providing cover against premature death. While the gross premium for this is slightly lower than the normal premium (because the business is written in the pension fund and full relief of tax can be claimed on it) every effort should be made to pay the maximum towards a pension, with life cover being bought

separately and subject to the usual relief of half the basic rate of tax.

There are two ways in which a Chancellor can plug a tax loophole. The first is to alter the annuity field. The most common is to apply the new rules to policies arranged after the Budget, leaving existing contracts unaffected—as we have seen in the past when the maturity value of single premium life policies became liable to what was then surtax, and the cash option from annuity-based growth bonds became liable to basic rate tax as well.

In blatant cases of tax avoidance, the axe may come down straight away—as happened on Tuesday with "reverse" annuities. Here, a company effectively has bought an annuity from the individual—paying

cash (probably in instalments), which is likely to be tax free. In return, regular payments have been made by the individual net of basic rate tax, and relief has been claimed for the higher rates of tax. Effectively, therefore, the individual has secured tax free sums in return for gross income which, otherwise, would have been highly taxed.

Now, an individual's payments will no longer qualify for tax relief, and those who have indulged in this practice will have to unscramble the arrangements as best they can. The moral is that those who embark on schemes designed solely for tax avoidance on a long-term basis, may find that, whatever counsel may say, the Chancellor can steamroller and alter the rules at any stage of the game.

John Drummond

Alliance Building Society tops £1,000 million assets.

At the 113th Annual General Meeting of the Alliance Building Society in Hove on 1st April 1977, Mr. L. Farrer-Brown, Chairman, reported record mortgage lending in 1976 and highlighted the Society's achievement of £1,000 million total assets during the year.

Mr. Farrer-Brown said that the growth rate of 18.2% was among the highest achieved by any building society in 1976 and that the Society's general reserve had increased to £33 million, representing 3.31% of total assets compared with 3.05% in the previous year.

The number of shareholders and depositors had increased by over 60,000 and they had made gross investments which averaged £13 million for each working day of the year.

Record lending had been achieved by the Society both as regards the number—25,078—and the total amount—£224 million—of mortgage advances. This reflected a deliberate policy to maintain lending at as high a level as possible and to this end net liquidity was reduced from 18.4% to 16.4% after allowing for sums held for payments due in January 1977.

In the course of the year two changes were made in the investment and mortgage interest rates and what happened as a result illustrated the necessity for building societies to maintain over the

whole range of investments their competitiveness for funds. If they are to play their part in sustaining the present scale of home-ownership, let alone help, as they wish, to extend home-ownership.

During the last three months of the year when the Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate was raised to 15%, the Society extended the range of its High Income Term Shares in order to attract the required amount of funds to meet the demand for mortgages.

A recent survey sponsored by the National Economic Development Office shows that three-quarters of those under the age of 45 named the ownership of their house as their ideal choice and a large proportion of them expected to realise that hope within ten years. For this to happen an increasing flow of funds into building societies will be essential. The Alliance seeks the resources and freedom to advance home-ownership to the full and it always gives mortgage priority to its investors.



For copies of the Report & Accounts and details of the Society's savings & investment schemes, please contact any Alliance Branch or Agent, or Head Office, Alliance House, Hove Park, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7AZ (telephone Brighton 776454).

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

مكتبة الأمل

Investor's week

Muted market response to Mr Healey

Though the stock market initially reacted favourably to the Chancellor's package, the response was muted, and investors were not prepared to chase prices much higher.

After a cautious start on Monday both equities and gilts sprang to life late on Tuesday and throughout the whole of the following session. The institutions were back in the market in force for the brief period bringing double-figure rises to many of the "blue chip" equities and unprecedented rises of up to £3 for many gilts.

The particular appeal of the Chancellor's proposals was the linking of personal taxation cuts to another round of incomes restraint. This was seen as going some way to resolving the market's concern over the likely reaction of the trade unions to continued pay restraint. But the point remains a background worry and by the end of the week was casting a positive drag on sentiment.

So the Budget euphoria was short lived and on Thursday the institutions withdrew, profits were taken and all of the Budget gains were wiped out. At night's close of 412.5 the FT Index was 5.6 lower over the week. Market thinking then turned to interest rates and here the signs were rather less encouraging, for the short-term rate at least.

A round of base rate cuts from the clearing banks was

quickly followed by a full point reduction in the minimum lending rate. But the move was largely expected and the Bank of England's action was seen as a clear indication that it did not want interest rates to fall further for the time being.

The response from equities was muted, many dealers feeling that with the interest rate spur removed and the Budget already discounted the market is badly in need of fresh incentive.

Like equities, gilt-edged stocks were little stirred by the MLR move and immediate gains were soon lost. But they

were helped late on Thursday by the announcement of a new fully-paid short "tap" of £800m. The terms are judged to be favourable and heavy applications are expected when the application lists open on Wednesday.

Bid and speculative shares were quieter than in recent weeks but it looks as if there is an end in sight of the Herriot Morris takeover saga. After turning down three offers from Babcock & Wilcox, the Loughborough crane-maker has agreed to terms worth £8m from Hawker Siddeley and the shares rose 25p to 252p.

Scientific equipment maker A. Gallenkamp soared 82p to 272p after news of takeover talks with an unidentified company.

The shares have been bought speculatively for a couple of weeks now and, as the company is a substantial overseas earner, were initially firm on dividend hopes. Next group FMC, down 12p to 101p, turned down an approach from fellow group Loughborough Crane and NUT Trust, substantial FMC shareholder, has also rejected the offer.

Results from well-known names like Tube Investments 392p, Lucas 243p, Cadbury Schweppes 44th and Bowater 196p, were all received favourably. But this was not the case with London Brick at 50p after profits at the lower end of the range of estimates. International group Dalgety, down 4p to 235p, announced a £12m rights issue, while Spirax-Sarco, up 15p to 196p, was another rising cash.

In spite of a clutch of mainly favourable results the insurance sector remained depressed by the Tenerife air disaster which cost the industry some £11m last year and full restoration of the dividend is also possible. The shares are now lost 4p to 122p.

David Mott

MAIN RISES AND FALLS OF THE WEEK

RISES			
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Movement
370p	107p	APV	30p to 362p
272p	105p	Gallenkamp	82p to 272p
173p	100p	Marshall's Univ	18p to 170p
252p	64p	H. Morris	26p to 252p
194p	92p	Ocean Wilsons	12p to 182p
FALLS			
276p	175p	EMI	19p to 201p
115p	30p	FMC	12p to 101p
65p	13p	R. Kitchen	5p to 20p
611p	17p	Wm Press	74p to 51p
352p	20p	Royal Insurance	21p to 310p

Pensions

Reviewing post-retirement benefit

If you are a member of an occupational pension scheme which allows increases on pensions after they start to be paid, you may well find that the arrangements are revised next year.

In April 1978 the new earnings related state pension scheme starts. Before then—long before then—decisions will have to be taken about contracting out. The option open to "good" occupational pension schemes is to take over the responsibility for the part of the new pension in excess of the flat-rate basic pension, in exchange for a reduction in the national insurance contributions payable by both employer and scheme members.

One feature of the new state scheme is the in-built protection against inflation. The earnings on which the pension is calculated will be adjusted by reference to national average earnings. The pension, once it becomes payable, will similarly be revised annually in line with a price or earnings index.

If a scheme is contracted out, it will have to match the protection up to retirement. There will be a "guaranteed minimum pension" on a similar basis to the state scheme earnings related element, and the basic formula for calculating

pensions will also have to be based on either "final" pay or on average pay throughout membership with the same sort of adjustment for changes in earnings levels as is included in the state scheme.

After retirement, however, there will be no requirement to review the pension. In respect of the guaranteed minimum pension the national insurance fund will accept responsibility for the increases. This will be achieved by paying, as part of the state pension, the increase which would have been due if the pensioner had never been contracted out.

The result will be that, in an occupational scheme which has provision for pensions to increase and which contracts out, members will receive double increases on the guaranteed minimum pension part, once from their own scheme and once from the state.

What is done about this will depend on circumstances. If the scheme has a fixed rate of increase, pensions probably fail to keep pace with inflation, and there is a strong argument for continuing the increases on the whole occupational scheme pension.

If increases have been running at a higher rate, this argument is no longer valid; unless the occupational scheme increases exclude the guar-

anteed minimum pension, the total income from state and occupational scheme combined may well increase at a higher rate than either changes in money values or the earnings generally of those still in employment.

In the case of a scheme with an index-linked pension (or one which in fact achieves that level of increase, without formal indexation) there clearly must be a rate of increase greater than that required to protect the pensioner, or even give him his fair share of any general increase in prosperity of the community as a whole. In this case the occupational scheme, if it contracts out, is almost certain to consider amendments to exclude guaranteed minimum pensions from any increases.

In many schemes the decision about a possible modification of the increase arrangements will be based on other considerations. The rate of contribution to the national insurance scheme by both employers and employees will be lower in cases where the employee is contracted out. The saving will be significantly larger than the expected increase in national insurance contributions next April, although there will be very much larger increases to come over the next 30 years. The saving will also be much

greater than the cost in most of the better schemes of introducing these modifications necessary to meet the contracting out requirements.

In many schemes the net result is likely to be that the employer's total cost, national insurance contributions and his own contributions, combined, will go down by perhaps 1 per cent to 2 per cent of pay roll, even if the members are allowed to keep the whole of the reduction in their own national insurance contributions. The net saving from contracting out less a small increase in the general level of contributions on the introduction of the new scheme.

Not many employers in this position are likely to feel like defending a reduction from the level of benefits already being provided. The only circumstances which might make this step salable to the members are if some of the other benefits under the scheme are being improved at the same time. This is more likely to be the case where the benefits are more modest—but, of course, such a scheme is less likely to have generous pension increase arrangements and therefore less likely to face the problem in the first place.

Eric Brunet

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Medium and Income funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder Index: 1790.2; rise from January 1, 1977: +12.5%. Average change offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: -0.5%; over 3 years: +29.1%.

MEDIUM			
Framlington Cap. F	18.0	85.9	29.4
Piccadilly Tech	14.9	38.0	13.5
Schroder General	11.9	59.4	38.3
Rowan Securities	10.7	73.8	44.0
Mercury General	10.1	35.8	29.1
Widder Growth F	9.5	35.8	29.1
Henderson Inc Assets	9.5	48.5	28.2
Jacobs Seed Leads	9.3	11.3	5.9
Barclaytrust Invest	9.1	44.1	28.0
Pedicular	8.9	44.1	28.0
Brown Shipley	8.3	44.4	26.3
Discretionary F	8.0	53.0	27.9
Mutual Security Plus	7.6	34.3	40.5
Equity & Law	7.3	34.3	40.5
Crescent Reserves	6.7	41.5	9.8
Target Thistle	6.2	45.9	26.6
Piccadilly Private	5.8	11.1	26.9
United Trusts	5.3	45.9	10.0
London Wall Capital	5.7	45.3	26.8
Friends Provident	5.5	43.8	26.8
M & G Midland	5.4	68.3	33.9
M & G Trusts	5.3	36.5	33.9
M & G Sec General	4.9	26.0	33.9
Barrington	4.7	—	109.7
Bishopsgate Prog F	4.6	12.5	109.7
Kleinwort Benson F	4.5	38.0	51.0
British Life Balanced	4.4	80.4	14.7
London Growth F	4.3	10.1	70.6
Wickmoor	4.2	36.9	62.3
Abbey General	4.0	45.8	35.7
Nelson	4.0	45.8	35.7
Norwich Union	4.0	29.9	50.4
Allied First	3.9	29.9	50.4
Guarant	3.8	34.0	51.0
Lloyds Life Accum F	3.8	33.7	78.6
NPI Growth Accum F	3.8	33.7	78.6
Merid	3.8	26.8	39.4
Archway Fund M	3.8	36.3	41.1
Allied Electrical & Ind	3.7	33.7	53.2
Tyndall Capital	3.3	10.3	50.7
London Cynve	3.2	22.9	22.8
TSB Scottish	3.1	22.9	43.8
Family Fund	3.0	41.5	42.8
Arbuthnot Giants	2.9	16.8	69.5
Arbuthnot	2.8	2.5	64.8
Hill Samuel British	2.7	58.6	28.6
Buckingham	2.6	35.3	67.8
Canfield General	2.4	48.2	15.1
Anderson Unit Trust	2.4	48.2	15.1
British Life	1.9	44.5	72.3
M & G General	1.9	23.9	67.2
S & P Scotchman	1.8	19.5	57.1
Prudential	1.5	48.0	1.6
Pearl Unit	1.2	45.0	62.5
Britannia Domestic	1.2	20.5	1.1
Britannia Growth	1.2	59.0	1.1
Oceanic Growth	1.1	3.9	51.0
Britannia Unit Energy	1.1	7.8	1.2
Hill Samuel Capital	0.8	53.7	1.1
G & A	0.8	43.0	35.8
Union General	0.4	33.1	60.0
Allied Ham British	0.1	33.6	47.8
S & P UK Equity	0.1	33.6	47.8
Equity	0.1	33.6	47.8
Ministry Fund	0.0	56.0	35.6
Hill Samuel Security	0.0	56.0	35.6
Lloyds Bank Fourth	0.0	—	60.7
Lloyds Bank First	0.0	—	60.7
Tyndall Int Earnings	0.0	—	60.8
Target Professional	-0.3	26.8	43.8
Allied Growth & Inc	-0.4	33.8	76.9
London Capital	-0.4	38.2	67.7
Alben Trust	-0.7	18.0	—
Key Private	-1.0	0.4	64.3
Legal & General	-1.0	22.8	50.7
Coloance	-1.0	—	—
Quadrant F	-1.9	31.8	—
Mutual "Blue Chip"	-2.1	29.9	33.3
Cabot F	-2.3	17.7	35.6
Ministry	-2.3	52.9	57.5
Garmore British	-2.5	52.9	47.1
S & P Ebor General	-2.5	28.9	—
Friars House M	-2.7	46.8	20.8
Lloyds Bank Second	-3.0	34.0	5.5
Cicu Fund	-3.0	0.1	38.7
Unicorn "500"	-3.1	43.1	41.1

A: Change since March 25, 1976, offer to bid, income reinvested.
B: Change since April 1, 1974, offer to bid, income reinvested. Both taken to March 31, 1977.
M: Trust valued monthly.
F: Trust valued every two weeks.
Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2.

Stock markets

Hangover on politics and interest rates

The lack of an immediate incentive and some political uncertainty brought a miserable end to an eventful week for both equities and gilts.

With buyers adopting an extremely cautious and selective approach, light profit-taking was enough to lower the FT Index 6.3, for a close of 412.5. This was its low point of the day and over the week the loss was 5.6.

Dealers said that with interest rates unlikely to fall again for some time and the Budget fully discounted, there was little for investors to go for and most shares drifted through lack of interest. A background concern was the Government's fragile position, made worse by the Secretary of State's resignation and of particular significance because of Monday's Budget vote.

Expect Royce-Parsons to move sharply up, as it is strongly expected that Government will allow the early ordering of Stage 2 of the coal-fired power station at Drax in Yorkshire. Soon we should hear that profits jumped from £25.2m to £30.2m, making a rise of £5m over the week. The rise of £11m last year and full restoration of the dividend is also possible. The shares are now 146p.

In the gilt-edged market, the new "tap" and the prospect of floating-rate bonds gave an early boost to long dates. But the buying was not strong enough to counter profit-taking and by the close most stocks were up to £1 lower and at the bottom.

Shorts were also hit by profit-taking with losses of half a point, and selectively even more where stocks compared

unfavourably with the terms of the new "tap". In such cases, falls were up to £1. But the short end saw a little late buying and many stocks were just a shade firmer in "late, late" dealings.

Among the "blue chips", the heaviest losers were ICI 9p to 354p, Unilever 8p to 460p and Glaxo, whose interim figures are due on Monday, 8p to 485p. Market estimates of the last named's profits range between £40m and £42m.

The big engineers also lost ground with Tubes Investments dropping a further 8p to 302p after figures and Metal Box lower by 4p to 286p. AEFV was another to fall after gaining ground on earlier figures and this time the decline was 8p to 362p.

From the list of bid and speculative stocks, Herbert Morris, whose agreed bid from Hawker Siddeley was forecast in this column, gained a further 5p to 253p, making a rise of 25p over the week. But Hawker receded 6p to 515p.

After news of an approach, Gallenkamp firmed another 2p to 272p, but Pilkington, talked of as a possible suitor, lost 15p off at 320p. Others speculatively wanted were James Warren up 5p to 74p, Crosby House, an active stock and 9p better at 123p on bid hopes and Hunting Associated where the rise was 19p to 126p.

But profit-taking knocked 7p from L. Gardner at 203p, while for the same reason Tocalamit was a penny lower at 91p. The Chancellor's threat to raise beer prices if the petrol vote is lost on Monday brought a late reaction from brewers with Tollermeche down 5p to 130p, Bass Charrington 3p to 109p, Whitbread "A" 3p to 73p, Allied 2p to 70p and Guinness 3p to 338p.

In the textile sector, Lincroft Kilgour added 4p to 45p on the news of a Wm Reed share and F. Miller gained 2p to 47p after profits.

Press comment helped Sylene to rise 3p to 59p, but lower earnings clipped 2p from Stanley Miller at 10p.

In the insurance sector, Hambro Life rose 2p to 212p.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord. div.	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev. year
Breadal & Cloud (25p) Fin	4.53	3.8	—	5.83	5.3
Charles Ebery (10p) Fin	1.45	1.45	1/7	1.77	1.77
Elys (Wimbledon) (15p) Fin	1.82	1.59	4/6	2.49	2.26
Gaskell (Bacup) (20p) Fin	3.38	3.07	20/5	5.55	5.07
Charles Hurst (25p) Fin	2.71	2.71	23/6	5.37	5.37
F. Miller (10p) Fin	1.3	1.2	10/6	2.6	2.36
Stanley Miller (10p) Fin	0.63	0.63	24/5	1.15	1.15
Rewong Tin (10p) Int	1.5	1.5	6/5	—	5.0
Scottish TV (10p) Fin	1.37	1.3	—	2.11	1.3
Wombwell Foundry (10p) Int	0.33	0.33	27/5	—	1.07

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Adjusted for scrip.

Mr Simons leaving Denbyware

Denbyware, the oven and tableware manufacturer, announced yesterday that it has been mutually agreed that Mr Simon will leave the company.

Mr Simon, who has been chairman and managing director, resign with immediate effect following fundamental policy differences in recent months.

Mr Simons owns 27.56 per cent of the Denbyware equity of which a US company, Intercon, has an interest of 21.42 per cent. Intercon is a joint company set up when Denbyware was first floated seven years ago with Sherwood Refractories and the former Rolls-Royce.

Aged 43, Mr Simons was at first primarily responsible for promotion and sales co-ordination until he was appointed deputy chairman in June 1973. He was instrumental in building Denbyware's US sales presence through his presidency of the Cincinnati-based tableware importer, Millard-Norman.

Miller peak again and scrip too

Since going public in 1968, Glasgow-based F. Miller (Textiles) has done better every year and the latest 12 months were no exception.

In the year to February 13, sales rose by 17.65 per cent to £42.2m, and pre-tax profits were 13.5 per cent to the good at £556,000, despite heavier interest of £265,000, against £204,000. The shares rose yesterday.

Up goes the gross dividend by the maximum from 3.53p to 4p and there is a one-for-one scrip issue as well.

In its interim statement last October, the board reported pressure on margins.

Breedon keeps downturn at bay

Government cutbacks have not yet robbed Breedon and Clout Hill Lime Works of the knack of keeping profits moving with turnover. They rose from £2.55m to £2.77m in the year to January 31, and pre-tax profits from £673,000 to £719,000, another record. Up goes gross payment from 8.16p to 8.58p.

However, pre-tax profits slipped from £407,000 to £373,000 in the first half, and the Government spent, weather is not always a friend of roadbuilders and limestone quarriers.

Kalahari diamonds for De Beers

The Botswana Government announced yesterday that a diamond pipe had been discovered under the Kalahari desert by De Beers. Although further evaluation work has to be carried out, the government said that it appears to be a major discovery and that other companies have been given up to a year to look again.

The pace, however, may be too hot to last. Sales in the second half of 1976 equalled those of the first six months but the rate of increase slowed down, as did the building industry. So it has continued.

Outlook is good as Scottish TV returns to its old form

By Tony May

The surge seen at Scottish Television at half time has continued. Last year the group nearly equalled its best-ever pre-tax profit of £1.44m, achieved in 1973.

Equally encouraging, since the start of 1977 advertising revenue has risen strongly and Mr J. Campbell Fraser, chairman, says that the first quarter was 38 per cent up on last year.

On the other hand costs are also rising, mainly on increased production expenditure, but the board is encouraged by the

prospects for the first half of 1977 at least.

Turnover in 1976 rose 33 per cent to £12m, with £11.6m being brought in by advertising sales, an increase of 32.6 per cent. Other revenue went up 38 per cent to £383,000.

Pre-tax profits jumped more than 63 per cent to £1.44m after deducting £1.27m against £560,000 for Exchange level.

This independent station serving central Scotland resumed interim dividend payments in October and is now paying a maximum total of 3.25p gross for the year against a single payment of 2p last year. The shares hardened 1p to 34p on

the results, where the yield is 9.5 per cent.

Profits at half-time quadrupled to £635,000, a continuation of the improvement which started in the second half of 1975. Advertising was buoyant and showed a 46.5 per cent rise—better than for the industry as a whole.

Mr Campbell Fraser said that current income was up. He expected even better things this year.

In the second half year, the group pushed its profits up 19 per cent to £771,000 on advertising sales of £1.1m—a rise of 22 per cent. Other income spurred 38 per cent to £277,000.

Abridged Particulars

Issue of 500,000 Participating Shares of 1p each fully paid at £10 each

Surinvest Japanese Index Trust Limited

(Incorporated in Jersey under the Companies (Jersey) Laws 1861 to 1968)

Over the five years to 1st January 1977 the Tokyo Stock Exchange Index in terms of £ sterling plus the investment premium rose 253%.

Over this period not one authorised trust has performed nearly as well as the Tokyo Index in sterling plus the premium.

Surinvest Japanese Index Trust Limited (SJIT) is an open-ended investment company incorporated in Jersey which provides residents of the Scheduled Territories with a simple vehicle for investing through the premium in the Japanese Stock Market, which is the second largest in

Hard times hit Stanley Miller

Briefly

Bank Base Rates

57	54	Twinlock 12% ULS
53	51	Unilock Holdings
57	65	Walter Alexander

1.75: May, \$146.25-46.40; Aug. 1.550 lots. IS
 1.48-48.50. Sals. 1.550 lots. IS
 Prices: 9.29c; 17-day average 9.11c.
RYABANE MEAL was steady. April
 667-78 per metric ton; June, \$177
 1.70: Aug. \$180.50-81.30; Oct.

identical 8 ¹ 1983	105.2	105.2
identical 9 ¹ 1983	105.2	105.2
hood 9 1983	102.2	102.2
hec Prov 8 ¹ 1981	101.2	101.2
hec Prov 9 ¹ 1983	101.2	101.2

Donald B. 1983	115	117
Don 1987	102	101
Rand J. 1988	82	40
41 1987	75	80
41 1988	78	80
Bank of Switzer-		
5 1981	107	108
Carbide 4 1983	105	105
Lambert 1 1987	81	82
Corn 8 1988	83	

5	—	2.2	4.0	6.4
1	—	6.0	7.4	12.9
4	—	25.0	10.3	5.5
5	—	—	—	—

clined to 44,304 tons from 45,533 tons in January, but was slightly above year-ago levels. Stocks of zinc held by producers at the end of February stood at

16.4	10.5	Arb Ptn & Prop	13.6	14.4	4.4
28.9	25.3	N Amer Int (4)	24.4	28.2	1.1
47.3	37.0	Commodity (5)	47.0	51.6	4.7
94.0	47.8	Do Accum (5)	63.7	79.0	4.7
41.8	36.0	10-yr. Income (5)	44.5	48.0	4.7

Brown Shipley Unit Fund Managers			
Founder's Cost	Unit	Loadb. 2002	2002
103.6	70.3	Bm Ship Ex (1)	94.7
156.2	123.6	De Income (1)	149.2
208.2	183.9	De Accum (1)	207.3
50.8	18.4	Oceanic Fin	34.0
19.8	17.9	De General	17.8
34.4	33.1	De Growth Acc	33.0
100.0	100.0	De Growth Inc	100.0

Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers Ltd.			
Merham Rd, H Wycombe, Bucks.	0194	32815	
57.0	41.8	Equity & Law	55.3
			56.10 4.80
Framlington Unit Trust Management Ltd.			
Framlington Bse, 57 Ireland Yd. B'k	01-249	6971	
73.0	49.0	Capital	73.0
			76.60 4.80
68.0	48.1	Income	68.0
			72.3 7.41

Gold

2.8	103.0	Henderson Gr	10
3.9	32.7	High Income	4
5.3	18.6	Inc & Assets	2
5.4	22.5	International	2
7.8	36.0	ETH American	7

5.9	153.7	On Accum	12
1.3	110.8	2nd Gen	20
2.1	142.9	Do Accum	18
7.6	63.6	Mild & Gen	11
1.3	129.0	Do Accum	18
3.1	87.0	Dis Fund	9
1.8	115.3	Do Accum	16
7.5	79.4	Special Trst	10
1.5	95.2	Do Accum	13
1.4	143.0	Major Trst - End	12

3	47.7	Capital	51.
3	22.2	Income	30.
2	73.9	Financial	29.
2	66.8	Growth	78.
7	41.8	Extra Income	51.
3	49.9	Portfolio	59.

relate to Thursday's close. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern

55.0	Universal Growth	60.4	64.7	2.87	
34.4	High Yield	44.7	47.9	7.42	7
28.1	Income	35.3	37.8	9.13	1
37.3	High Return	49.9	33.4	9.89	1

94.0	Gift Fund	167.5	112.0	4.06	
25.6	International	24.7	25.6	1.03	14
22.12	De Re-int'l	21.2	22.12	1.11	
11.1	Investment	20.8	21.6	3.00	Adm
93.8	Professional (3)	129.2	125.3	5.16	13
17.1	Income	22.4	24.5	10.22	
21.1	Preference	12.9	14.1	22.49	Row
4 19.2	Equity Growth	17.6	18.5	6.03	Yali
Total (including Management Scotland Ltd.)					

61.4	Income (3)	84.5	80.2	7.04	23
168.0	On Account (3)	144.4	151.4	7.80	23
70.0	Capital (3)	101.0	106.3	4.78	23
101.6	On Account (3)	137.0	144.0	4.78	23
55.0	Change Fund (3)	78.6	92.8	5.64	23
86.2	On Account (3)	93.4	100.2	5.04	23
61.4	Excess of Cash	84.5	87.2	2.70	23

AGO GRAINS: Wheat fu
gains of 1/2 to 1 1/2 cent. WH
17 1/2c-78c: July, 280 1/2-81c:
88c: Dec, 298 1/2-98c: M
1/2c: May, 315c. MAIZE:
33c: July, 359 1/2c: Sept, 3
5c: 265 1/2c: March, 321 1/2c

Barclays Life Assurance Co.		
Barclays Life Assurance Co.	101.9	107.3
Barclays Life Assurance Co.	101.9	107.3
Barclays Life Assurance Co.	101.9	107.3

Ga. Special	..	41.5	..
Man. Growth	1231	241.5	154.0
Life Fund Insurance Co.			
Ad. Crookston		01-448	430
Crusar Brit. Ins.	..	125.0	..
Crusader Insurance,			
2. Tower Place, B.C.		01-626	883
Tuesday of month.			
Crusader Prop.	59.9	65.5	..

Marriage Fund	23.7	25.0	..
Sony High Yld	23.7	25.0	..
Reverse Fund	23.7	25.4	..
Life Assurance Co of Canada			
390, London Rd, Guilford			71285
Growth Fund 151	26.0	27.8	..
Tension Fund	51.7	56.2	..

Funds

1976-77		1976-77		1976-77	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
1976-77	1976-77	1976-77	1976-77	1976-77	1976-77

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EARNINGS-1977

100

Weekend



Sheila Black

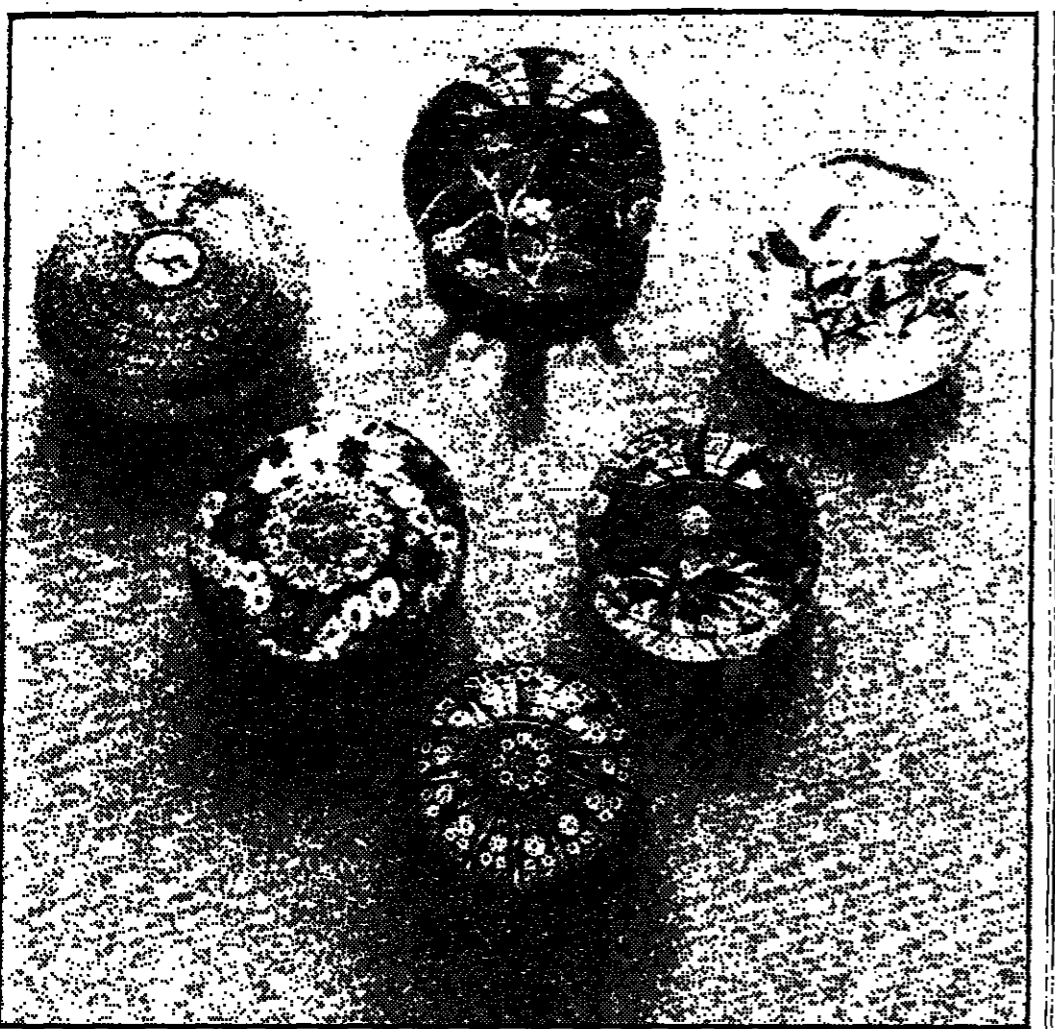
The Merry Paul confectionery shops are a delight, modern versions of the old-fashioned sweetshops full of originalities. A chocolate hound is wrapped in golden paper and has a sad, lashed eye and a shiny plastic top hat (70p). A really good-value little flat box, all golden, holds chocolate, fondant and jelly shapes of rabbits, eggs, a chick and a nest of sugar eggs—there are eight good-sized pieces and the whole is cheap at 65p—I could hardly believe it but that's the

price. Another box of 10 chocolate eggs is £2.25—the chocolate costs so much more than jellies. Stopped jars (great for kitchen, studio or playroom afterwards) hold hard, boiled sweets that look like cranes or pebbles and fool everyone who knows them not (85p for 175 grammes). Kendal Mint Cake is like a candied fudge, freshly minty, very good indeed and so high in nutrition that the list of expeditions which carried it covers most of the back of the packets—one slab for 27p or

two in one box for 50p. This would please anyone, whatever the age or sex. Adorable little drawing bags of rough sack-like paper with Merry Paul's name, are 35p and they make an intriguing wrapping—these are free with some costlier goodies like rum truffles. They would post from the branch at 10 Victoria Arcade, Victoria Street, London, SW1 (01-834 6320). Other branches are at 59 Fleet Street, Sloane Square and in the Leicester Square station booking hall.

It may be too late to tell you about Jennifer King this Easter but her hand-painted eggs are dainty gifts for any time of the year and highly original thank you or greetings. She blows large hen's eggs and paints them with flowers of the cornfield, violets, camomile, red campions, bell flowers with Jacob's Ladder, and hedgerow flowers in silhouette. A summer garden series features blue or yellow butterflies with orange or red flowers, tagetes, rose with lily of the valley, or clusters in a choice of basic colours. Her birds include owls, cockerels, or exotic types. Alternatively what about messages like "I love

you" or "Get well for me" or "Be happy". She charges £1 per egg plus 35p for postage and packing. Eggs for special occasions like Easter sell in presentation boxes and cost £1.95 or £2.45. She makes mobiles and all sorts of exciting possibilities and will send a little descriptive piece of paper for these as well as for things like hand-embroidered garments, wooden or soft toys, leather, enamelled jewelry and that kind of thing. Please send a good-sized stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want more data from Jennifer King, Saffrons, Saffron Close, Pelsall, Staffs WS3 4LB (Pelsall 633359).



I usually resolve not to fritter money on chocolate eggs for Easter, and instead start buying small, useful presents. But all too often end up buying the trumperies as well and giving both. Most of the fun, however, involves that Easter morning breakfast, brunch or whatever you make of this particular festival and even more fun can be had by getting ready a line-up of pretty or amusing eggs in advance. If you think nobody is going to eat all the hard-boiled eggs the family want to dress up, blow a few as you would birds' eggs (only not rare birds, please). Give these rather fragile things to careful people, using the innards for cooking. Here are some simple ideas. The semi-bald man's eyebrows

and hair are of cotton wool. The grains came from farmers' seed shops or similar country shops if you want them golden but packet barley works too. A plasticine nose and a piece of wool make the cross-eyed egg, while felt ears, nose and teeth add character to the button eyes of the central egg. Tint the next egg with icing colours (perfectly safe, this) and tie with lace, which does not slip, then top with narrow ribbon. For the marbled egg, drop some oil paint on a saucer of water and paint. The pirate has a rag turban over his bank-of-wool hair, a wool moustache, paper eye patch and a red bead for his nose (or paint a piece of burlap with nail varnish). Paint all features with Fennel or fibre-tipped pens. Eggs dyed

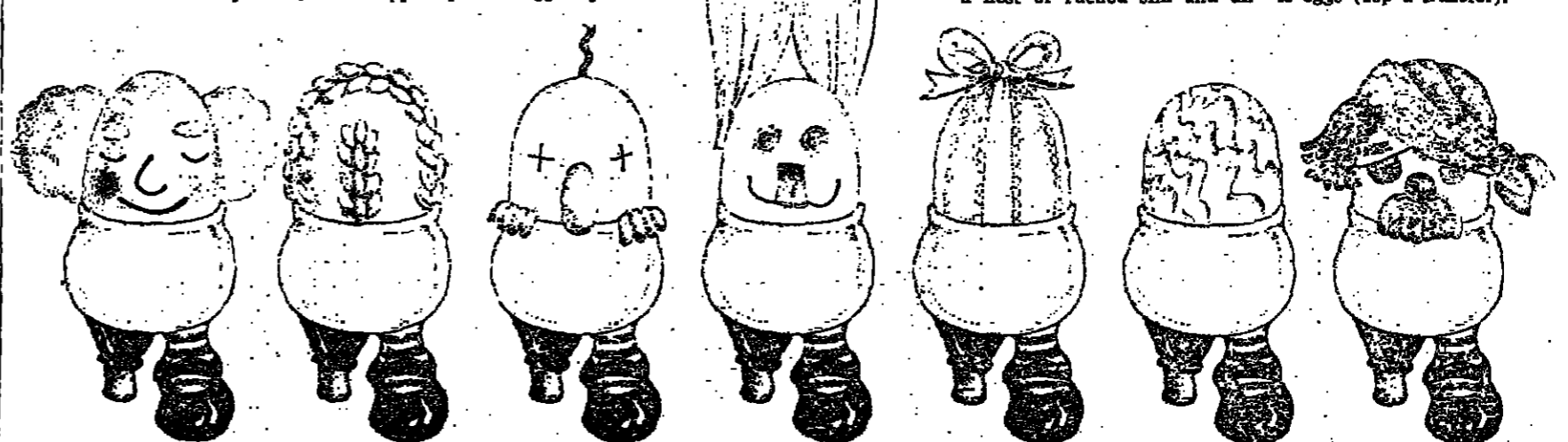
in saffron, cochineal and other food colourings make a pretty sight dressed on spring leaves in a shallow basket and trimmed with catkins. Make the eggs a supertime dish so that everyone can enjoy them all day—supper-time on Monday would be even better. These ideas by designer Janina Houston should spark off heaps of your own.

Our eggs all stand in the Long John Silver eggcups from Christopher Strangeways, 502 Kings Road, London, SW10 (01-

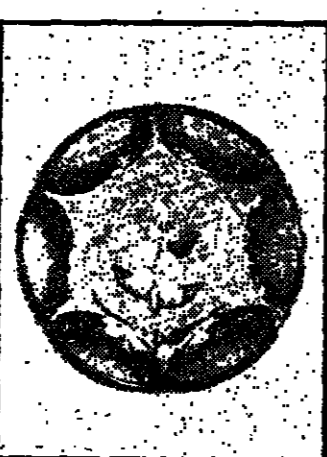
352 9863). They are on sale at a good many shops and stores all over the country in a white lustre pottery with blue striped socks, black shoe and wood-coloured peg leg at £2 each. Walking eggcups with two whole legs and feet are £1.45 each. They can be posted for 75p extra the set of four if you do not find them locally. Readers are probably familiar with the tea-cups, tea-pots and other walking pottery from Strangeways, all of which is as practical and functional as it is quaint. An eggcup can cost less than a chocolate egg and be used for years.

If giving, make the gift rather grand, like the hen's egg delicately painted with Chinese birds and delicate foliage, on a nest of ruched silk and all sealed into a little glass show case bound in black lacquer at £3 from Jacksons, of Piccadilly. It looks more expensive and is 60p extra by mail—the address is 172 Piccadilly, London, W1. For personal shoppers, there is also a Jacksons at 6A Sloane Street, London, SW1.

The animals with bon-bon hillocks beneath them or with rows of chocolates on which to nest are many and varied. The photograph shows two examples at £4.50 each (75p postage and packing) and the chocolates on the right are ribbon-tied atop a mug, with a little of the ribbon pattern. Incidentally, Jacksons sells 10p packets of powdered, non-toxic dye for eggs, as well as transfers of rabbits, chicks and flowers to press gently on to eggs (10p a transfer).



Glass paperweights are popular collector's items because they do not need to cost the earth, take up comparatively little space even in small homes, look lovely and make good conversation pieces and are still to be found as beautifully made as ever they were. At Sotheby's recent sale of glass paperweights there were some superb pieces, whether modern, Venetian, Bohemian, floral or formal. At Asprey, there is always a good selection of Baccarat glass paperweights at prices from approximately £75 to £250 or more. This French company's glass and crystal is the finest of its kind still being made and I recommend anyone who visits Paris to go to the showrooms in the rue du Paradis. Tucked away behind narrow shopping streets is the finest, airy, light museum of crystal I have ever seen, and the guides hand out history with the information so that you can see off what the Temps ate as well as the plainer ice buckets of today, along with a Cinderella made entirely of glass, with chandeliers forming her ball gown.



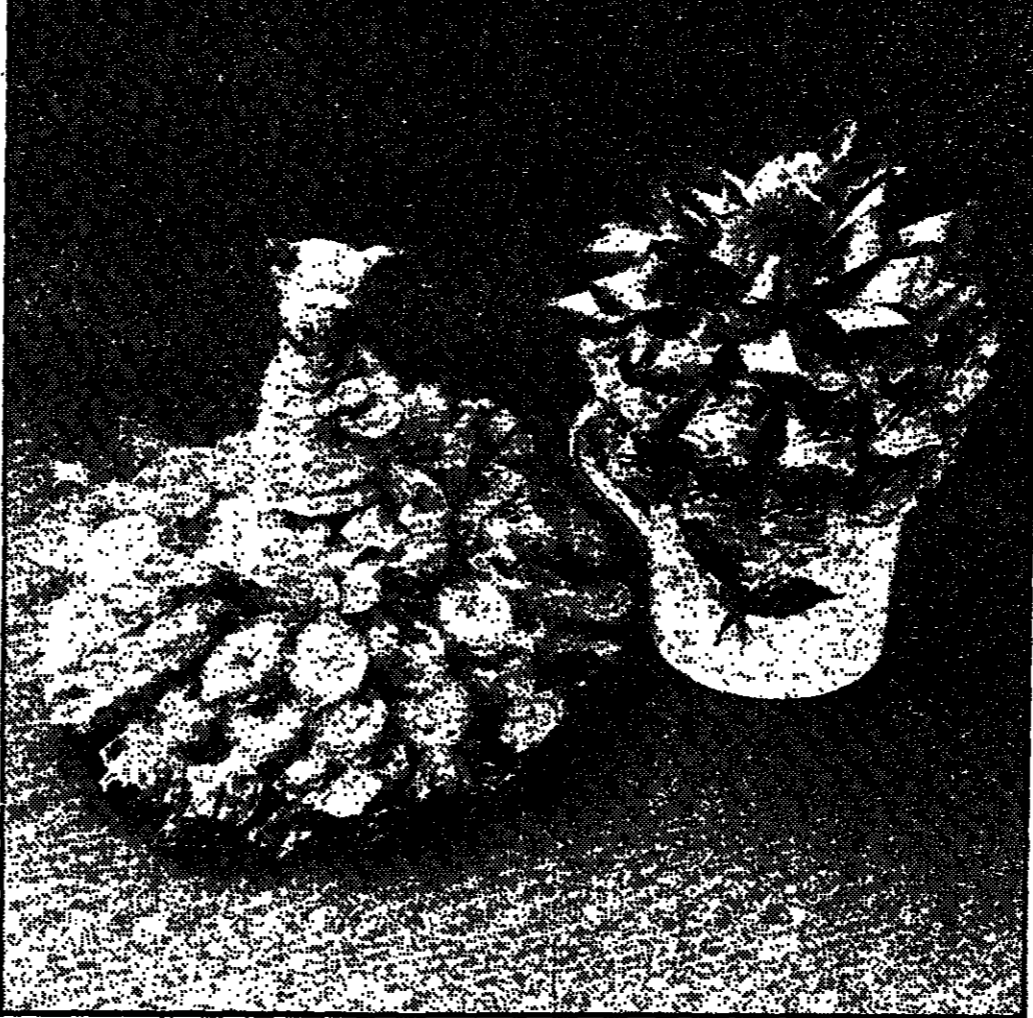
Clichy Lily of the Valley on rose wine ground, sold at Sotheby's for £8,500 in March 1970

so they make gifts that do not proclaim their price to the recipient yet always look as if they cost more than they actually did. If you want to spend £150 on paperweights, go to The Thomas Coram Foundation at 40 Brunswick Square (north-east corner of this wide-open space by Coram Hill Fields, full of flowers and grass and occasional sunshine and a lovely part of London). Wander round to look at the Art Treasures (open from about 10 am to 4.30 except when there are conferences so it may be worth telephoning 01-278 2424 first) then buy paperweights which encapsulate some part of the paintings or engravings. The paperweights are backgrounds of glass with felt bases. There are two prints of the original Foundling Hospital, demolished from the Fields in 1925, and very impressive; a lovely view of The Charter House by Gainsborough, which fits so well into the paperweight because the original was painted as a round; a bust of Handel by Roubiliac and a Hogarth painting of Captain Thomas Coram himself. The charity, founded in 1739, still concerns itself with children, running a special fostering service and trying to find adoptive parents for hard to place children like older or handicapped children. Russell Square is the nearest tube station and there is a good deal of interesting shopping in the Brunswick Square Centre. Spink is holding a kind of "surgery" in the South Western Hotel, Bournemouth,

on April 14 and 15. Six experts, covering Oriental, silver, furniture, picture, stained glass, china and objects will be there to see anything you might wish to sell, to appraise, to value and to buy if you decide to part with some of your treasures—auction companies have done this kind of thing before but it is a first for Spink and the difference is that they can buy on the spot.

Another first class Spink idea is the Lock, Stock and Barrel scheme, dreamed up by Graham Child, furniture buyer for so many of the 11 years he has been there and a director who innovates. He learnt that people seem to want to sell everything more often than just a few things—the object being to clear some kind of legacy, change directions in life, raise a specific sum, anything. So he now buys the whole contents of a house, clears it entirely even to the last, lost, dirty toothbrush at the back of a cupboard, sweeps out and leaves the place empty. Anything worth restoration gets the Spink treatment and goes into the St James's showroom for two or three months—the table may turn out to be really valuable or the chair could be a Hepplewhite or Chippendale. Spink then keeps 20 per cent of the actual sale price and refunds the rest over and above the spot price paid for the whole household if nobody originally was sure of the value of special pieces. Sellers get immediate cash—none of the long waits entailed by sending to auction and waiting for your specialist categories to come up. The trade being what it is, prices might even be better as dealers are sometimes inclined to pay more for "unseen" goods than for much-viewed saleroom goods.

Solicitors or inheritors love this system which has resulted in some very odd transactions like a Croydon warehouse and old houses that had been shut up for years; one man who unlocked his "legacy" found masses of toys which he offered to local children who tended to spurn such outdated toys but Spink got £200 for them. Obviously they do not buy loads of rubbish but they are not by any means unapproachable or over-selective. Graham Child loves saying "I've got a hammer and the power to bring it down fast on a cash price". Find out more from Spink and Son (01-930 7888).



Bon-bon

Partymad is a shop specializing in party accessories, from room to table decorations, for indoors or out, for any party occasion. Little birds' nests baskets are 45p or 55p and look adorable (postage is, I'm afraid, as much as one of the baskets at 44p). The shop will cater for any and every occasion and is at 67 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 (01-586 0169).

I cannot think why I went into Kodak wondering what on earth I was going to see after all the publicity given to Kodak's efforts to produce the instant camera. But I had forgotten all that and was childishly enthralled when I started playing with the camera, which beats anything else of its kind.

You aim at the subject in that simple, foolproof way associated with the Instamatic range of cameras, it being Kodak's belief that many hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic novices take photographs so they need to be protected from their own mistakes. This camera shows a golden ring in the viewing aperture. Frame the centre of your photograph in that ring—bringing the halo close to the edge of the face, for instance. Check

the environment, then photograph. Focusing is automatic and most results are best on normal although the aperture opens and closes. The flash is automatic and eight bulbs are fixed atop the camera in a special frame. It cannot be fired accidentally but only when a photo is being taken. Then the fun begins. The camera makes a slight, whirling noise and slides out a print. Leave it on the table or anywhere while the image slowly appears, fully developing in eight minutes. There is nothing to peel off, no mess, no stickiness, and every picture is delivered dry and satiny. The chemicals locked into the blackened back become harmless and cannot escape—at any rate unless gouged out though there is nothing much to gouge. The nice thing is that the British company had a lot to do with



Painted egg

this marvellous invention and Jubilee year seems an ideal launching time. There are three types. The EK4 has everything the costlier models have but the print has to be wound out by hand which is no great effort—the price is about £49. The EK6 is automatic in giving birth to the print and costs £63. The EK8 has various professional extras like a coupled coincident rangefinder, sophisticated aperture and so on (£105). Film packs with 10 print units cost £4.80. A three-year guarantee goes with each model and it is widely stocked—details from Kodak at Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP1 1JU. For nearly 30 years now, the Polaroid company has been experimenting with instant movies and has much hope in a new system under test. Kodak is hardly going to let that one stop them.

WINE AUSTRALIA

The Australian Wine Centre stocks over 100 wines from 23 leading wine producers in Australia. Prices range from £1.80—£4.00. A selection of six wines (three red, three white) is being offered to readers at £12.45 including carriage to U.K. mainland addresses only. This offer includes—

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- Ryecroft Shiraz
- Kaiserstuhl Claret
- Quelltaler Hock
- Penfold's Light Dry White
- Yalumba Carte d'Or Riesling

OR a 12 bottle selection—2 bottles of each of the above—£23.60. All prices carriage & VAT inclusive.

Please send no money but order to—Australian Wine Centre, 25 Friar Street, London, W1V 5TR. Price list and detailed literature also available.

Offer Closes 30th April, 1977

I will bet that thousands of you have Mahonia in your gardens. You enjoy the early colour and flowering because there is so little else in bloom at that time. You probably like the fact that it is evergreen, glossy and cares little about special soils or locations; that it reproduces easily—perhaps too easily—by suckers and that nothing seems to kill or spoil its spreading erectness.

But I will bet that thousands do not know you can eat those lovely, purple-blue oblong berries of autumn, more often either ignored or added to flower decorations than harvested for the larder. Yet the Mahonia berries were long marketed in America as Oregon Grapes and were very popular for jams, jellies, sauces and preserves. They are still popular, but too widely grown to be attractive as commercial-marketing products in most areas.

I learnt this from a hardback book that has been a fascination for me ever since I discovered it at last year's Chelsea Flower Show. The book is full of tempting excitement for the gardener, indoors or out, and now is the time to buy it and to start experimenting. With light indoor spaces or with greenhouses, you can grow mango, paw paw, guava and a lot of other exotics. Out of doors you can grow a host of unusual fruits like cranberries or blueberries, as well as those we all know so well. My own indoor garden is beginning to live up to the list of the book's contents which reads like a world ramble of orchards, while my daughter's large conservatory now has huge banana plants, healthy pineapple, and a couple of variations of passion fruit which

fruits juicily. My miniature and not-so-miniature oranges and lemons go into sauces, look good all year round in their pots, perfume my room when in blossom and give me enormous fun.

You can buy seeds of many exotics like Cherimoya (custard apple) and the spelling varies from one expert to another when translated into English, guava, papaya, fruit salad bush and so on from Thompson and Morgan, of London Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. Hilliers, of Winchester, sell such things as cranberries, and Thomas Rivers and Son, of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, sell citrus trees of all kinds although the current season is sold out. You can buy the actual fresh fruits from high class greengrocers or department stores, like Harrods and Fortnum's, then sow the seeds yourself. Not cheaper, even if you buy one fruit which yields many seeds, but fruit seeds often grow better when planted straight from the fruit, in my experience. These exotics start slowly but look splendid when they start fruiting, which may be anything from 18 months to four years, according to type. However, not all fruits can be grown from seed so do buy the book first, then plot your unusual orchards. It is called *Growing Unusual Fruit*, by Alan P. Simmons, a descendant of Kentish fruit growers who has long wanted to extend the frontiers of fruit growing in Britain. The publisher is David and Charles, of Newton Abbot, Devon, and the cheap edition price is £2.75 (was once £4.50). I have found that every friend who sees it wants one. Bookshops or direct—add 30p postage.

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Delivery dates: 10/11/77, 12/11/77, 13/11/77, 14/11/77, 15/11/77, 16/11/77, 17/11/77, 18/11/77, 19/11/77, 20/11/77, 21/11/77, 22/11/77, 23/11/77, 24/11/77, 25/11/77, 26/11/77, 27/11/77, 28/11/77, 29/11/77, 30/11/77, 1/12/77, 2/12/77, 3/12/77, 4/12/77, 5/12/77, 6/12/77, 7/12/77, 8/12/77, 9/12/77, 10/12/77, 11/12/77, 12/12/77, 13/12/77, 14/12/77, 15/12/77, 16/12/77, 17/12/77, 18/12/77, 19/12/77, 20/12/77, 21/12/77, 22/12/77, 23/12/77, 24/12/77, 25/12/77, 26/12/77, 27/12/77, 28/12/77, 29/12/77, 30/12/77, 31/12/77, 1/1/78, 2/1/78, 3/1/78, 4/1/78, 5/1/78, 6/1/78, 7/1/78, 8/1/78, 9/1/78, 10/1/78, 11/1/78, 12/1/78, 13/1/78, 14/1/78, 15/1/78, 16/1/78, 17/1/78, 18/1/78, 19/1/78, 20/1/78, 21/1/78, 22/1/78, 23/1/78, 24/1/78, 25/1/78, 26/1/78, 27/1/78, 28/1/78, 29/1/78, 30/1/78, 31/1/78, 1/2/78, 2/2/78, 3/2/78, 4/2/78, 5/2/78, 6/2/78, 7/2/78, 8/2/78, 9/2/78, 10/2/78, 11/2/78, 12/2/78, 13/2/78, 14/2/78, 15/2/78, 16/2/78, 17/2/78, 18/2/78, 19/2/78, 20/2/78, 21/2/78, 22/2/78, 23/2/78, 24/2/78, 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